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Near East & South Asia

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Iran-Iraq Conflict

Renewed Missile Exchange—An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio 14 March announced Iraq's decision to renew the missile attacks on Tehran in response to Iranian violations of Iraq's conditions for halting the bombardment of cities. Iran had continued to shell Iraqi cities over the weekend and had launched a "new aggression" against Iraqi territory in the I Army Corps sector. Iraq accordingly fired one missile at Tehran on the evening of 13 March as a "warning blow," and since the Iranian attacks continued, five more missiles were fired at the Iranian capital the following morning. A seventh missile strike on Tehran was subsequently announced in a military statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

Iran responded to the strikes on Tehran by launching two missiles at Baghdad the morning of 14 March, according to a military statement carried by IRNA. The head of Iran's War Information Headquarters disclosed that over 20 civilians were killed and 50 wounded in the Iraqi strikes on Tehran, the agency noted. Iraqi military statements cited by Voice of the Masses announced that Iranian shelling of Iraqi residential areas over the weekend had killed 21 civilians and wounded 79, while the subsequent missile strike on Baghdad caused "a number" of casualties.

On the new offensive against Iraq's I Army Corps in northern Iraq, codenamed "Zafar-7," reports by IRNA and Tehran radio said the attack began early 13 March in the Khurmal district of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province. A combined force of the IRGC and Iraqi opposition units captured 7 border villages and 17 "strategic" heights, advancing to within 20 km of Al-Sulaymaniyah. The attackers allegedly killed or wounded some 800 Iraqis and took 187 POW's during the fighting on 13-14 March. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn visited the Al-Sulaymaniyah area 13 March to acquaint himself with measures to "deter and defeat the aggressor invaders," INA reported.

In other action, Iraq's II Army Corps "wiped out" most of an Iranian force that attempted an attack in the central sector 12 March, according to an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses. The communique also reported a 13 March Iraqi air strike on a large maritime target, and an Iraqi military spokesman told INA that the ship was destroyed and sank along with its occupants. Iraqi planes attacked the Emam Hasan oil pumping station the previous day, as well as another maritime target, a communique said. IRNA reports on 12 March stated that Iraqi planes were repelled by antiaircraft fire over Gachsaran, but that five Iranians were wounded when Iraqi planes dropped chemical bombs on a village in the Bakhtaran region.

Reviewing the Iraqi missile and air strikes which preceded the temporary halt on 11 March, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA said Iraq had fired 68 missiles, of which 58 fell on Tehran, adding that Iraqi warplanes also dropped over 313 tons of high explosive on Iranian cities during the same period. Iran had only managed to fire 21 missiles at Iraq, he said. In Iran, cabinet ministers stressed the importance of expanding the program to build bomb shelters, Tehran radio noted, and Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said this program will proceed at "full pace." The Turkish foreign minister warned 11 March that his country will use "the means in its power" to pressure both sides to adhere to the moratorium in the war of the cities, according to Ankara radio. He indicated that Turkey would respond to a resumption of the bombardment by banning overflights of planes from both countries, except for passenger aircraft.

Iran and the USSR—In a sermon carried by Tehran radio 11 March, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani reasserted that the missiles launched against Iran are modified Scud-B's. Although he did not specifically accuse the Soviet Union of participating in the missiles' alteration, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that it is "not acceptable" for "neighbors who would like to have good relations" with Iran to have given such large quantities of missiles to Iraq. The Majlis speaker reiterated his country's right to retaliate for Iraqi attacks, and he warned that Iran's "principal response" will occur on the battlefields inside Iraq and at the fronts.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnaze honored the Iranian ambassador's request for a meeting at which they discussed the "current state" of bilateral relations and developments in the Iran-Iraq war, TASS reported 11 March. The Iranian envoy also delivered Foreign Minister 'Ali Velayati's reply to a message from Shevardnadze, IRNA reported.

Israel

Raid in Lebanon—Israeli jets attacked and destroyed "terrorist" targets east of Sidon 12 March, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the targets were used as sites for planning attacks against Israel. A PLO spokesman cited by AFP disclosed that the raid hit 3 Fatah positions, killing 1 Palestinian and wounding 11. Seven buildings were destroyed, AFP added. Beirut radio reported that searches were under way for 11 PLO fighters who were still missing in the rubble of the demolished buildings. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat subsequently told Algiers Voice of Palestine radio that the attack killed two and wounded dozens and warned that further raids are likely.

Shamir's U.S. Visit—In a Jerusalem radio interview prior to his departure for the United States, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir confirmed his intention to submit ideas to his U.S. interlocutors, "some of which they know." Shamir also maintained that his remarks

published by HA'ARETZ on 11 March "did not offend anybody." HA'ARETZ had quoted the prime minister as saying that "the only word I accept in the Shultz document is the signature bearing his name." Shamir also told the paper that there is nothing in the document which can guarantee Israel's security, adding that "it is entirely aimed at appeasing the Arabs." Jerusalem radio reported that some 200,000 Israelis held a rally in support of Shamir before his departure for Washington.

Occupied Territories—Around half the 1,000 Arab policemen in the territories have thus far handed in resignation notices, IDF radio reported 13 March. A senior police source cited by the radio warned that the resignations will not affect Israel's interests, but will damage the local population in the territories. Several police stations may be closed and a large part of local police activity will be reduced, the radio said. According to Jerusalem radio, many policemen said they have received threats from Palestinian activists, while others said they are too scared to continue.

Disturbances erupted anew in the Ramallah area 13 March following news that a local man had died in a hospital after being shot by the IDF during a 7 March clash. The radio also reported that another eight Palestinians were injured during clashes with security forces in the West Bank 11-12 March. One was seriously wounded after throwing a grenade at an IDF patrol near Hebron. Two Israelis were wounded by stonethrowers near Hebron 13 March, the radio noted. On the current number of detainees, a military source cited by THE JERUSALEM POST 11 March disclosed that the IDF is holding some 2,600 Palestinian demonstrators in its military prisons.

Hungarian Office—Jerusalem radio reported that the Hungarian Interests Office was officially opened in Tel Aviv 14 March.

Jordan

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i summoned the director of the PLO office in Amman 12 March to protest a Palestinian statement calling for the resignation of West Bank members from Jordan's House of Representatives, Amman radio reported. Al-Rifa'i warned that such "suspect" calls only serve the enemy and undermine the unity of Arabs from the two sides of the Jordan River. The protest came after Jordan had obtained the "text" of "Statement No 10" which was recently distributed in the West Bank, the radio noted. However, the PLO official denied that the PLO had issued such a clause, the radio added, and he later provided the Jordanian authorities with the "true text" of the statement, which did not contain the clauses objected to by Jordan.

The "text" of Statement No 10 broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio did not contain an explicit call for the resignation of West Bank members of the Jordanian parliament, though it did express support for the "punishment" of "the henchmen of some Arab regimes." More explicitly, the version of the statement broadcast by Sanaa Voice of Palestine referred to "henchmen of the Jordanian regime."

Meanwhile, King Husayn confirmed to reporters in Cairo that Yasir 'Arafat has been invited to visit Jordan for "discussions and consultations" and that he is expected to arrive "soon," according to remarks cited by MENA 11 March. The king, who made a brief visit to Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on regional events "in the light of recent U.S. moves," noted that his recent contacts in Syria were "restricted to the latest developments" in the Mideast. For Egypt's part, Mubarak declared that he and the king are "always optimistic" on a solution to the Mideast problem, and he added that there has been no "definite report" that Israeli Prime Minister Shamir has rejected the latest U.S. peace proposals.

Syria

The proposals put forward by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz are "unacceptable in their present form" both to Syria and to any other Arab party, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stated in remarks cited by Damascus radio 12 March. He urged the United States to come up with "better defined proposals" calling for an end to Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab land and recognizing Palestinian national rights.

Lebanon

A Lebanese Forces (LF) statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio announced that two senior LF officers were "martyred" in Juniyah 12 March. While the statement did not say how or why the men died, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio claimed they were killed in a clash with gunmen escorting the son of President Amin al-Jumayyil. The PSP radio spoke of "extreme tension" in the Juniyah area.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Policy—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi denied that his country is experiencing a "power struggle," and he explained that the "historic turning point" at which Libya finds itself is being "met with misunderstanding," according to a 13 March KUNA report which cited interviews published in three Arab newspapers. Al-Qadhdhafi also rebutted accusations that the Libyan Government sponsors terrorism. On the subject of foreign relations, the Libyan leader praised ties with Algeria, and he revealed that the two countries are discussing a unity pact which would be open to other Arab countries. Al-Qadhdhafi described relations with Syria as "very good," and he noted Libya's efforts to bring about Palestinian unity.

During a rally broadcast by Tripoli television 12 March, Al-Qadhdhafi focused his remarks on domestic issues, particularly the Libyan people's implementation of their inherent freedom. He called on them to take advantage of the mechanisms provided by their basic people's congresses, professional associations, and people's courts. Al-Qadhdhafi ordered that passports be returned to all those persons forbidden to travel abroad and that such bans should henceforth be issued only on the authority of the people's court.

'Threat' to Panama Stressed—The Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the ambassadors from Latin America as well as from socialist and other countries to brief them on "U.S. threats" against Panama, Tripoli radio reported 13 March.

International Congress Resolutions—In resolutions carried by JANA 10 March, the "International General People's Congress" hailed Libya's anti-imperialist orientation under the "wise leadership" of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The congress, which met in Ra's al-Unuf 2-9 March, affirmed Libyan claims of sovereignty over the Aozou strip and denounced "French and U.S. military intervention in Chad." The congress also called for the transfer of UN headquarters and the elimination of the veto in the UN Security Council.

Warplanes Return From Egypt—All four MiG-23's which made emergency landings at an Egyptian air base were repatriated, Tripoli television announced 11 March. In remarks broadcast by the station, the pilots thanked the Egyptian military for its assistance and "extreme hospitality."

Egypt

President Mubarak welcomed his UAE counterpart, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, who arrived on an official visit 13 March, MENA reported. In remarks carried by the agency, Shaykh Zayid praised bilateral ties as a "model of good and excellent relations." Egypt's exclusion from the Arab community "was not natural," Shaykh Zayid declared, and he hoped that consultations between the two countries will strengthen Arab solidarity.

Afghan Affairs

New Mujahidin Alliance Leader—Gulbuddin Hikmatyar has been appointed leader of the seven-party alliance headquartered in Pakistan, AFP reported, citing a 14 March statement from Hikmatyar's Islamic Party of God. Former alliance leader Muhammad Yunis Khalis resigned 12 March for "health reasons," the agency noted, adding that, according to a "moderate rebel leader," Yunis Khalis stepped down due to differences over whether to send a delegation to the current peace talks in Geneva.

Islamic Advisory Council—In remarks cited by Kabul radio 13 March, President Najibullah declared that the newly inaugurated Islamic Advisory Council will be responsible for giving advice to the president on "all affairs on the basis of the principles of the sacred religion of Islam." The creation of the council demonstrates the state's concern for the observation of Islamic principals, Najibullah observed, adding that the council's full membership will include opposition figures and returnees from abroad. For its first assignment Najibullah charged the council with the task of preparing a proposal for enhancing the teaching of religious topics in the schools.

PIA Hijacking Foiled—An attempt to hijack a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight en route from Karachi to Quetta 12 March was thwarted by the pilot and an air marshal who "overpowered" the hijacker, Islamabad radio reported. According to press reports cited by AFP, the hijacker is thought to be an agent for the Afghan secret police.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Rejects 'Indirect Representation'

JN121954 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1828 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said the PLO has rejected the U.S. peace plan in the Middle East because it calls for an indirect Palestinian representation in peace negotiations. In an interview with the newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES published today, brother leader Abu 'Ammar stressed that the PLO will not agree to an indirect representation through a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation as U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has proposed.

PLO Reaction to Closure of UN Office

'Extremely Serious Decision'

NC112227 Paris AFP in English 2222 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Tunis, March 11 (AFP)—An announcement by the United States that it is to go ahead with moves to close the Palestine Liberation Organization's mission at the United Nations is an "extremely serious decision," a statement issued at the PLO's exile headquarters said here on Friday. The move, announced in New York earlier in the day, was "an act of absolute support to the official terrorism being used against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories," the official said in an initial PLO reaction.

The statement, carried by the national Tunisian News Agency TAP, said that the measure was "not only an expression of the United States' hostility to the Palestinian people and the PLO, but also a reflection of approval for the savage crimes being committed each day in the Israeli-occupied territories." The decision also represented a "flagrant violation" of agreements between the United Nations and the United States, the statement said.

The U.S. announcement said the mission had to be closed by March 21 at the latest.

UN Meeting Requested

JN121957 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1828 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] The PLO has called for an urgent UN General Assembly meeting to discuss the United States' decision to close the PLO's mission in New York on 21 March. Earlier, U.S. delegate Herbert Okun conveyed this decision to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday, who immediately informed him of his strong protest against this violation of the UN headquarters agreement which was signed between the United States and the United Nations in 1947.

Al-Wazir Comments

JN132142 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] has said that the U.S. decision to close the PLO mission at the United Nations demonstrates Israel's blackmailing of the U.S. Administration. He added this decision proves that the United States lacks the sincere desire to achieve a peaceful solution to the Palestine question.

Brother Abu Jihad stressed that the PLO [words indistinct] because the PLO is the major factor in the peace equation in the Middle East. He said the U.S. Administration should recognize the need for the participation of an independent Palestinian delegation on an equal footing with the other parties in any future negotiations on peace. He pointed out the PLO must appoint members of this delegation.

PFLP's Habash on Syrian Arrest of Official

JN111741 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] PFLP Secretary General George Habash has announced that Syrian authorities have arrested Salah Salah, PLO representative in Lebanon, in the border township of Al-Masna' while he was preparing to leave for Damascus the day before yesterday. George Habash added that he hopes the incident is merely a misunderstanding that will be resolved soon. He also stressed that despite this misunderstanding, the PFLP considers itself an ally of Syria.

Al-Quds Radio Carries Leadership Call No 10

JN111631 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1504 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Call No 10 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Popular Uprising—date, place not given]

[Text] By God, the popular revolution will continue until the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. To our Arab brothers we say: Enough speeches and applause. Here is a stone.

O proud struggling masses, O giants of the 20th century, O makers of glory, honor, and dignity. Your uprising is firmly entrenched in its 4th month, one wave after another and one phase after another. You are bidding farewell to a group of martyrs with a new group of martyrs on the path of liberating the Palestinian homeland and defeating the occupation.

Your great heroism is destroying the myth of the unconquerable army. You are defeating the occupation daily and in all fields and on all levels—political, military, economic, cultural, and propaganda. You are defeating

the neo-fascists and the neo-Nazis—Kissinger, Shultz, and Shamir—who constitute one body and one spear in fighting and oppressing people and in trying to break their will.

Let us show the picture of a homeland with a free Palestinian will. This will has foiled the plot of Shultz, who is still playing for time. He returned emptyhanded because of the bright truth and the flames of the uprising. Thanks to your uprising, the far and near have realized that the United States is our arch-enemy. You have proved to the whole world that we do not and will not allow anyone to speak in our name. We will never allow anyone to undermine our revolution and uprising in any form whatsoever by welcoming Shultz' shuttle trips.

We and you, O heroic masses, are renewing our determination that no solution is possible except in accordance with the Palestinian solution, that there is no solution except the Palestinian solution. Masses of our struggling people, we are placing before you the following resolutions:

1. The unity of our masses is a certain guarantee to preserve and promote the achievements of the great uprising. Therefore, let us have more unity, cohesion, and solidarity. At the same time, we ask you to firmly strike those who attempt to harm your achievements by spreading tendentious rumors and distorted news. Form more popular committees and strike groups, the fighting arms of the comprehensive uprising.

2. We urge all of our masses in various areas to open their shops and fuel stations and to display their wares for the same duration which had been fixed at 3 hours daily in accordance with the circumstances of each area.

3. We have urged all those working in the civilian administration departments to resign. We have also called on those working in other departments, including the police and the income tax departments, to resign also. The masses of the uprising are renewing the call for all those who work in the police and tax departments to resign immediately. Otherwise, the arm of the uprising is long and the Zionists will not be able to break our people's will. At the same time, the unified leadership and our people affirm that we should not abandon or renounce the sons of our people who respond to calls and the national duty.

4. We renew our appeal to our heroic masses not to pay taxes. The accountants are responsible. They should not deal in this matter. Our steadfast merchants should not present or even fill the tax forms. The popular committees and the merchants committees will take up this issue. We will punish all those who try to ignore the calls of the homeland and duty.

5. We call on our brave merchants and proud masses not to deal in Zionist and foreign products when there are local substitutes for them, such as cigarettes, detergents, sweets, and other products. It is important that merchants cooperate with local factories, which should be committed to serving our people and not exploiting them. These factories are asked to reduce their prices. They should not tamper with workers' wages or working hours and should not discontinue their services. Concerning workers, the competent sides, which are the national popular committees, will take care of their problems.

We also urge the vegetable merchants on all levels to boycott Zionist agricultural products and buy Arab agricultural products to ensure the steadfastness of our farmers. We call on all parties concerned to reduce their prices—shops, factories, doctors, pharmacies, pharmaceutical factories, and lawyers. This is the time for all of our people's sectors to cooperate.

6. We urge our masses to reduce the Zionist pressure on the besieged areas everywhere through struggle and through material and moral support and cohesion. Let us rise as one man in the case of a siege.

7. We call for strengthening the masses against the Zionist enemy army, Zionist settlers, and the agents.

8. Moreover, we reaffirm the resolutions in Call No 9 and the previous calls.

O masses of the heroic uprising. In this great month of March and throughout the uprising we announce the following:

1. The days of the uprising are occasions for solidarity and heroism of our people against the enemy, its agents, and supporters.

2. The day of 11 March will be a day of Palestinian solidarity with the detainees and wounded of the uprising. There will be sit-ins and visits will be paid to their relatives, extending moral and material support to them.

3. The days of 15 and 16 March will be days of complete strike under the slogan: No substitute for the Palestinian state. Let these days be the days of anger and heroic demonstrations.

4. The 21st of March, the Al-Karamah battle anniversary, will be the day for Palestinian dignity [Al-Karamah]. It will be the day of the most violent confrontations with the Zionist enemy.

O masses of the uprising, greetings of glory and pride. We greet the women who are making great sacrifices for their people. Greeetings for the fathers and mothers, for the men and women, the cubs and roses. Greetings to all of our generous generation. Greetings to the heroic youths and all the free men in the world. Greetings to the world reporters who are revealing the truth about the fascist Zionist practices.

Glory and immortality to our martyrs. God is with us, victory is near. Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Zain Noorani Meets With UN's Cordovez

BK111651 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, had private consultations for over an hour with UN intermediary, Mr Diego Cordovez, in Geneva today to review the state of negotiations on Afghanistan. According to delegation sources, the two sides identified the areas of agreement, as well as the outstanding issues on which progress is still awaited before any conclusion can emerge with regard to signing of the Geneva accord.

For the past week, the Pakistan delegation has been emphasizing the necessity of resolution of issues which will ensure that conditions will be created inside Afghanistan for the return of refugees in safety and honor. These include symmetry of obligations on the guarantors regarding nonsupply of military equipment to the Kabul regime and the mujahidin after the Geneva accord (?enters) into force. Similarly, the question of formation of a transitional government has been the focus of discussion. Mr Zain Noorani has been forcefully pleading now the logic of the requirement, for otherwise fighting will continue inside Afghanistan and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to smoothly implement the Geneva accord.

The Pakistan delegation has also been pointing out the necessity of understanding with regard to withdrawal of Soviet troops during the period after 3 months. During these 3 months, 50 percent of the [word indistinct] Soviet troops are to be withdrawn. Radio Pakistan's representative Safdar Ahad says it is also understood that Pakistan wants that a progressive, continuous, and irreversible (?program) agreed upon for the withdrawal of remaining troops, and there should be proper monitoring.

Algeria

'Arafat Arrives in Algiers, Makes Statement

LD122228 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Algiers this evening. At the airport he made a press statement in which he affirmed that despite the decision announced by the Israeli military clique—represented by its cabinet and its army command—to double the use of the bestial iron fist against the Palestinian people, children and women, we are determined to continue escalating the popular uprising at all levels.

Regarding the invitation extended by President Bendjedid to hold an emergency Arab summit, Mr 'Arafat said: As soon as we heard the important and responsible speech made by President Bendjedid on the Palestinian people and the Palestinian issue, the Palestinian leadership held a meeting and issued a statement supporting this invitation. He added: We hope this conference will be held as soon as possible to confront the serious moves concerning the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people.

Meets With President, Comments

LD140945 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
0630 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, made a statement yesterday to journalists at the headquarters of the presidency following his audience with the president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN. He said the following:

[Begin recording] Undoubtedly, we are pleased at the convening of this important meeting, which is taking place during these historic and fateful conditions witnessed by the Palestinian cause and during this marvelous escalation of the uprising of our people in the occupied territories.

We gave the brother president the details of the situation and of what is happening inside our occupied territories, in the villages, towns, and camps, and the determination and will of our people to persevere in stepping-up this uprising until the end of the Israeli occupation, God willing. This is a decision made by the Palestinian leadership. It was made from the top down to the last child among the Palestinian people. I remind our people in Algeria that in the same way the Algerian people went out to express clearly their attachment to their revolution, rights, and hopes, the Palestinian people currently are acting for their revolution and national rights. It will continue to be stepped up until the end of the Israeli occupation and the establishment of our free and independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, God willing.

We explained all these events and moves inside and outside of our occupied territories. Then, we tackled the important issue called for by the brother president, not only on behalf of Algeria, but out of his revolutionary and committed stand on behalf of all the Arab nation. This call consists of a request for the Arab leaders to meet quickly and urgently to follow up and back the revolutionary popular uprising of our Palestinian people and to study only one issue.

I have just agreed with my brother Dr Georges [Habash], and my brother Nayif Hawatimah that there will be only one issue on the agenda: that of the uprising of the Palestinian people and all the political and revolutionary aspects of the Palestinian cause, the stepping-up of this uprising until the end of the occupation, God willing, and the necessity of convening this summit as soon as possible, in order to be able to face up to the U.S. plan, which is trying to impose a new kind of slavery on our people.

Our Palestinian people are strongly determined to reject these conspiracies and suspicious solutions and will continue their revolution until the achievement of victory, God willing. [end recording]

Statement on Closure of PLO UN Office

LD121346 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Following official notification of the U.S. decision to close the PLO mission in New York, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement:

The U.S. decision to close the PLO's permanent observer mission at the United Nations constitutes in every respect a particularly negative and dangerous development. This arbitrary decision, which deliberately ignores the international obligations of the United States, clashes with the universality of the United Nations Organization in its composition and its operation, the Foreign Ministry stresses.

It also denotes an inclination to impose the particular attitudes of the host country on the collective will of the international community, which bases the PLO's observer status at the United Nations Organization on its standing as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Foreign Ministry statement also stresses that at a more basic level the decision helps weaken UN efforts for a global, just, and definitive peace solution in the Middle East, removes the PLO's irreplacable contribution to this solution, and moves toward eclipsing the international character of the Palestinian people. Coming at a time of popular revolt—which has been going on for over 3 months and expresses the irrepressible desire of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights—this decision, whose illegality has been

established by almost all of the UN member states, is likely to exacerbate the Middle East crisis and to thwart its solution in the long term.

In rejecting this inadmissible decision, the Foreign Ministry communique says: Algeria calls on the member states and competent organs of the United Nations to do everything to stop it from being carried out and to avoid the considerable prejudice which would result from it for the world organization and for the prospects of peace in the Middle East. End quote.

Egypt

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives, Meets Mubarak

NC111907 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn arrived in Cairo this evening on a brief visit to Egypt, lasting a few hours. He was received at Cairo airport by President Husni Mubarak, who then escorted him to the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis where his majesty was accorded an official welcome.

President Husni Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn held a private round of talks at the Presidential Palace. This was followed by an expanded round of discussions, attended on the Egyptian side by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs and first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; and Ihab Wahbah, Egyptian ambassador in Jordan.

Representing Jordan at the talks were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of the Royal Court; Staff Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister; and Walid al-Rumhi, Jordanian charge d'affaires in Cairo.

The talks dealt with developments in the Middle East in light of the recent U.S. moves in the region and the latest developments in the Gulf war, particularly in the aftermath of the dangerous escalation of the war of the cities between Iraq and Iran.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak hosted a dinner banquet at the Presidential Palace this evening in honor of His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him. The two leaders resumed their discussion at the dinner table. The banquet was also attended by the members of the Egyptian and Jordanian delegations participating in the talks.

Mubarak, Husayn Comment

NC112057 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2003 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn spoke to reporters at the conclusion of more than 4 hours of talks, which continued through a dinner banquet at the Presidential Palace.

In his statements, the Jordanian king noted that the Arab situation is currently passing through a phase of contacts and consultations. He added: We are conducting these contacts in our capacity as brothers who have certain responsibilities toward the Arab people and their future generations. I pray that God will enable us to fully carry out our duty to our people in the greater Arab homeland for the sake of achieving their hopes and ambitions.

Responding to a question pertaining to reports which stated that he had invited Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to carry out consultations with him, His Majesty King Husayn said: In fact, there have been new developments on the Arab scene. We have extended an invitation to Yasir 'Arafat to visit Jordan so we can hold discussions and consultations on all issues, as well as on the new developments. We expect the visit to take place soon.

President Husni Mubarak was asked if he felt optimistic with regard to the Arab situation following his talks today with the Jordanian king and in light of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statements. President Mubarak replied that he and his majesty the king are always optimistic, whether Shamir makes statements that might help to find a solution or not. He said: We are consulting together and making the utmost efforts in the right direction in order that the Palestinian issue reaches a safe stage.

On whether he had achieved success with regard to his efforts to attain reconciliation between Syria and its sister Arab countries during his latest tour, the Jordanian king replied: "What I discussed during my last visit was restricted to the latest developments which we are witness to and which every Arab is living through with his heart and conscience."

King Husayn expressed the hope that these visits and meetings will serve the Arab position and enable it to confront the current challenges and requirements.

Asked by a foreign correspondent about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's rejection of the latest U.S. proposals, President Mubarak responded: So far we have not received a definite report that Shamir has rejected the peace plan.

The correspondent noted that it appears, however, that he had rejected the peace plan according to an interview published by an Israeli newspaper in Jerusalem. President Mubarak answered: I think Shamir will be opposing

U.S., world, European, and Arab public opinion. I do not believe this method will lead to a comprehensive peace or settlement. Regional peace and stability is regarded as a vital matter by the people living in the region and by the entire world.

The foreign correspondent posed the same question to the Jordanian king, who replied: I agree with the view expressed by his excellency the president.

King Husayn Departs

NC112038 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2027 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—His Majesty King Husayn left Cairo this evening following a brief visit during which he held important talks with President Husni Mubarak on intensified Arab and international efforts to push the peace process forward. [passage omitted]

UAE President Arrives on Official Visit

NC131220 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1209 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan arrived in Cairo at 1355 today from Abu Dhabi on an official visit, at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak, who received him at Cairo airport. [passage omitted]

Ghali 'Deeply Regrets' Closure of PLO Office

NC121535 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, deeply regrets the U.S. Administration's decision to close the PLO office in New York. In a statement to our radio correspondent, Minister Ghali said that this decision is bound to weaken the role of the United Nations and lessen its efficacy. He also stressed this step will not serve the peaceful efforts to solve the Middle East and Palestinian issues.

Fourth Libyan Jet Leaves Cairo 11 Mar

NC111610 Cairo MENA in English 1539 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, March 11—(MENA)—The fourth Libyan MiG-23 jet which had made an emergency landing along with three other planes at an airfield in the western zone on March 1, took off after passing inspection and maintenance measures by Saudi and Libyan technicians. The other three planes had left for Libya on Wednesday. Egypt has responded to Saudi King Fahd and a number of other Arab brothers' mediations to return the Libyan jets to Libya after conducting necessary inspection and maintenance.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses 12 March Rally

LD121543 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1245 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to 12 March rally outside the Passports Department in Tripoli—recorded]

[Text] Were you all forbidden from traveling? Anyone who was forbidden from traveling raise your hand. Were you all forbidden from traveling? [chanting]

First, I am sorry that a large number of Libyans were forbidden from travelling freely. This contradicts a major principle and a firm right for any free human being, which is freedom—freedom of every citizen to choose for himself a suitable job , education, or place of residence; freedom to travel if the need arises or if he is able to travel, and to return to his country. This is a fundamental principle of the third universal theory and of the revolutionary cause, which we created over many bitter years. This is also included in the Green Book, which is the result of the experiences of the people as they fought for liberation and freedom.

First of all, I am sorry if there were a number of Libyans deprived of this basic right. Also, I am sorry if you wronged yourselves and made yourselves slaves—not just those who were in prison, or imprisoned within the country. If you cannot leave the country, this means the country is a prison as far as you are concerned. Small prison and large prison: There should not be a small and a large prison in Libya. Libya should be a place of freedom. Libyans should be proud before the people of the whole world that their country is a place for freedom, and that those who are persecuted and those who fight for freedom come to Libya to enjoy freedom.

I am saying I also regret it if you have been unfair to yourselves, if you have made yourselves slaves. Why should you turn yourselves into slaves? This is a country that has witnessed a revolution to liberate this people, a country that was shackled with U.S. and British bases, Italian colonialism, reactionism, expansionist movements, and underdevelopment. Libya was a forgotten country that nobody talked about and nobody knew about. We had no pull or value in the world, despite the oil we used to have, and despite our strategic position. We had no dignity or pride regarding our existence on earth and among the people.

Today, Libya is a leader of the Arab nation; it leads movements that are fighting for freedom. Libya has been targeted by international imperialism and Zionism because its role in this battle represents a threat to the future of the enemies of freedom and people.

How then could you be unfair to yourselves? We find that such a group was imprisoned, while another group deprived itself of going abroad. Such attitudes and behavior do not suit us in our capacity as a free people. If you have anything to say, say it to the basic people's congress. There is nobody who will stop you from expressing your opinions in the basic people's congress and making political, economic, and administrative decisions.

This is the meaning of freedom. If a person does not have a basic people's congress, if he finds himself prevented from exercising authority, from expressing his opinion or deciding whatever he wishes, he finds himself forced to undertake clandestine activity. Such secret activity is unjustified in a country where every street has a basic people's congress, where in every (?alley) there is a basic people's congress. There is nobody who can issue a law in Libya if it is not issued by the basic people's congresses. There is nobody who can decide any domestic or foreign policy if it is not decided by the basic people's congresses.

People who voice condemnation in newspapers, or those who issue clandestine leaflets have been unable to gain authority. They like to put pressure on authority by writing articles in newspapers or in leaflets. They like to dictate to the authority ideas they want the authorities to carry out. They try to express their opinions through a piece of paper because they are incapable of implementing their ideas. Anybody who cannot govern [words indistinct] express his opinion about his country, his destiny, or his future, resorts to other means and goes on strike.

The demonstrations that you hear about or see in Europe and other countries are staged because the people cannot make their own decisions. Consequently, the people find themselves compelled to stage street demonstrations to voice their wishes. Our demonstrations are represented through the basic people's congresses. Every basic people's congress is a mass demonstration in which we say whatever we like and decide whatever we want. The street demonstrations do not make decisions.

Demonstrations decide nothing in the world. Demonstrations only demonstrate. Angry people express their opinions, but who will implement them? A demonstration has no power to implement an opinion. Demonstrations and sit-ins: Workers stage sit-ins and strikes because their rights are usurped by the employer, the owner of the factory. The factory in Libya, however, is run by the workers and partners in production. [words indistinct] demonstrations and sit-ins at production centers in relations to Libya.

The one who deprives himself of freedom is a slave and wants to be a slave. This contradicts the revolution, which is a cry for freedom, a declaration of freedom, a breaking of chains. Do we free ourselves from the Americans, from the English, from the police force, from reaction, from the agent royal throne, and then imprison ourselves and prevent ourselves from going abroad? I tell you this harms your country, your reputation, and even your honor as a free people, as a jamahiriyah. It should be an arena for freedom; the oppressed and fighters for freedom are the ones who come to Libya to enjoy freedom. Here pan-Arab basic people's conferences are held. International people's conferences are held in Libya because their organizers cannot express themselves as freely in their countries.

All countries around the world are ruled by an individual, a king, a family, a party, or a coalition of parties. A party is just part of the people, and the will of the people is indivisible. The will of the people is embodied in the basic people's conferences. In general, it is a shame for me, as a leader of a liberating revolution and of a people that should be free, along with my colleagues, to have worked and endangered ourselves for your sake without you being aware of it.

All the attempts that took place were attempts to usurp the revolution that we have built, brick by brick, the revolution that liberated Libya. After the liberation, the liberation of the land and of the people, came certain individuals who conspired against me in an attempt to usurp the revolution. They have no right to usurp it; this is their crime. I see it as a shameful thing for us that Libyans are banned from coming and going.

Before me are lists of thousands of people banned from traveling abroad by various Libyan bodies. These bodies that prevent you from going abroad must have had reasons for doing so. In general, there are bans all over the world, administrative and social bans: a father not allowing his young son to go abroad, not allowing his wife to go abroad because she is still under conditional repudiation; a wife saying this is my husband, do not allow him to leave; a bank saying so and so has debts, do not let him leave unless he settles them; or the national service saying this group of youths are wanted next month or the month after, so they should not leave unless they complete their service.

When you enter national service, after 12 months you take a month of leave. You can then go abroad. After the next 12 months, you take annual leave again, and can go abroad or stay at home; you are free. This happens in every country around the world.

If we call several thousand in this group, we will not let them leave until they become soldiers and carry arms. Then they can take their ordinary vacation. I mean these are routine matters. When one has an ordinary case before a court, an ordinary court, regarding personal status, debts, or a fight, the court can demand that so and so should not be allowed to leave during this period because his case is being considered on a certain date. This is so the case is not delayed and can be dealt with. Perhaps this case is in his interest. These are routine matters.

However, the fact remains that there are unacceptable and unreasonable excesses in the banning operation that have harmed us and made Libya like a prison. We do not accept this at all, no matter what. We do not accept the plurality of the banning bodies. Now the People's Court has been formed by the basic people's conferences. It consists of ordinary people nominated by the basic people's conferences, nominated by the general people's congress. In my opinion, any organ that has the right to ban a person should write to the people's court and say, for instance, that so and so has a case, has debts, is wanted for military service, so please do not allow him to leave during this period.

Once this reason is removed, he becomes free to go. Yet each of these bodies, which total almost 20, has enslaved a group of Libyans. This I cannot accept at all. This I do not accept. [applause and chants]

These are basic principles that I have confirmed before the general people's congress and the world: the release of the prisoners and the pardoning of even those sentenced to death and life imprisonment. Only one category, as you know, was excluded: those who cooperated with the outside. There is freedom of expression, freedom to issue resolutions, freedom to rule, freedom to dispose of your wealth, freedom to carry arms to defend yourselves.

This is a historic opportunity for you. A historic opportunity is available to us. Why should we miss it? There is complete freedom for anyone setting up a trade union, an association, a league, a vocaitonal congress. We do not want anyone to complain. To whom would he complain? He should go to the popular vocational congress, the professional league, and say: I have been wronged; I am right; I demand this. He goes to it, and it defends him. Otherwise, why do we have professional popular congresses? Why then does anyone belong to a specified trade that defends his rights and guides him in discharging his duties to his brothers or to society?

It is not feasible for a woman who has performed a pilgrimage to come on her own to complain. This should occur in a professional people's congress. In addition to our membership in the basic people's congresses, we have professional people's congresses within the basic people's congresses . Even a hairdresser has a trade, and therefore a union, a league he calls what he wants: the hairdresser's congress or haidresser's union. If one of them is wronged, they defend him. Everyone should be protected by his own union, by the association to which he belongs in addition to the basic people's congress, on political issues.

If it is a matter of professional or administrative complaints like most of the complaints we hear, then you have a congress. You must belong to a professional people's congress so that your administrative, trade, and social rights can be protected and defended. The basic people's congress is what enables you to exercise power; it gives you wealth and arms. These are the opportunities the world is now fighting for everywhere. Yet we have them here, in our hands.

As a matter of fact, I regret that we have wronged ourselves. We have tarnished the reputation of our country and our revolution. We have conspired, we have entered darkness; we have collaborated with U.S. intelligence, with reaction. We have spirited money out; we fled with them; we have fled from conscription. Those who have fled abroad include some fleeing national service. One stole the people's money and fled with it; another has stole the people's money and bought a block of apartments with it. When the people recovered the block, he said: Take my block of apartments away from me, take my money, and he left the country.

Someone else has secretly collaborated with foreigners. There is is absolutely no room in a jamahiriyah, a state of the masses, for secret activity. All activity must be conducted in broad daylight, in sunlight. No one can oppose your views, so express them at your podium, at the basic people's congress. Convince the people of them. Free people must agree that secret activity is unjustified. Anyone who has an idea can submit it to the basic people's congress, and no one can obstruct him or prevent this. There can be only a democratic discussion with him. [applause]

Forced labor should also be forbidden in this society. It is an act of dictatorship and injustice. You impose things, which concern only one side, concern you; one side imposes them on other sides. It is inadmissible in a free society, in which there is people's power, to think about using force against an individual, a group, or society as a whole. That should be one of the forbidden things which are completely unjustified.

If the people are convinced that it is all right to impose something by force, that is another matter. We imposed force on the Americans, the British, the Italians, and the reactionaries because their was no opportunity to reach an understanding with them. You cannot talk to them. Could you have said to them: We would like to make Libya into a republic, and then a jamahiriyah; we would like to put the power, wealth, and arms in the hands of the people—while they were in the hands of the kings, the Americans, the British, and the Italians? Who could have said that?

At that time, secret action was justifiable, as were the secret leaflets and everything, and making a newspaper inciting the people. But now you can use every means to incite the people to practice authority. It is your choice. You can write on the wall behind you, and after the people read it wipe it out and [word indistinct] and write your name under it.

Freedom is our right, it is our right. We were exposed to death for the sake of freedom. How can we abandon our freedom and make ourselves into slaves? There are social patterns and behaviors, conspiratorial ones, which led to the situation that was inflicted on you. A number of you, who were connected [word indistinct], wronged yourselves. One conspired with foreigners; and another was greedy. I read all the lists. For several days I have been reading the lists of those forbidden from travelling and the reasons for this. Naturally, I found some strange reasons among them—such as the daughter of a son is forbidden, so please do not let him travel. However, from now on, the authority concerned with stopping travel should be one authority.

I do not want to decide anything personally, You, in your basic people's congresses, should decide the means by which you say: such-and-such authority has the right to say that such-and-such a person should not be allowed to travel; we have the right to stop the one involved in such-and-such a case from travelling. It should clearly be a democratic action. He is not a criminal. As I said, someone who is involved in a court case, instead of considering it the following day and concluding it, they allow him to travel and he stays for 6 months [words indistinct]. The court keeps appealing to him.

No, the court has the right to say: This person is involved in a court case, please do not let him travel abroad on any mission so that we can conclude this case. That is reasonable. All these things should be discussed in your basic people's congresses, and then you can specify the delegated authority to stop travel. [words indistinct] specify one authority. Every authority which has an opinion in this matter should send this opinion to the People's Court which you formed, and the People's Court will discuss the matter with this authority because it might object to this ban.

But allow every authority to prevent travel! Apart from me, the administration of the armed forces can stop it; the revolutionary courts can stop it; [words indistinct] of the revolutionary committees can stop it; military intelligence can also stop it. The people's committees can stop travel; the Jamahiri security authority can stop it; the revolution security prosecution bureau can stopit too, as can the courts and public prosecution bureau, the administrative supervision authority, the Libyan Central bank, police stations, the public labor departments, criminal investigation and the military police.

This means that, other than military intelligence, there are also the the military police and the staff office. This means that there are three military authorities. There should only be one authority. There are three military authorities, and each of them publishes a list and say such-and-such person should not be allowed to travel. Sometomes there are malicious actions, sometimes acts of vengeance. A soldier had a quarrel with someone or an officier had a quarrel with someone, then he gives the name of this person and says that he should not be allowed to travel. [applause].

We would like the world to understand that what is taking place is the implementation of the third international theory and the sayings of the Green Book. These are not the property of Libyans alone, but are the summary of human experiences throughout its long and bitter journey for final emancipation and happiness.

As Libya becomes a place of freedom, we Libyans should direct our attention to our greater homeland, which is a big prison stretching from the Ocean to the Gulf. We should call on these people to demolish prisons, smash the shackles, and break the chains on the masses of the Arab nation, who are locked in internal prisons and in regional prisons. A whole nation is imprisoned within regional borders. The torch of freedom should shine on the whole greater Arab nation.

We in Libya should raise this promise and unleash this shout, because we are free and we have no fears. We should take up this historic mission toward the Arab nation's sons, toward this shackled, defeated, and torn nation. This is a nation tied by colonial, regional, and fascist forces which have weakened the forces of its masses.

We are better placed than others, and deserve more than others. We have confidence in ourselves because we are free to call on the Arab nation, day and night, until it is free from internal and external fetters. We should work for the demolition of jails, not only in Libya but also in the whole of the Arab world, and not the only small prisons, but also regional prisons and the prison of the greater homeland.

This is our message, brothers. Our freedom will remain incomplete as long as this freedom remains incomplete in the arab world, or even throughout the world. It is inadmissible that a people on whom the masses struggling for freedom are pinning their hopes and which they consider their focus of attention and interest, should the same time feel that it is not free. This is a contradiction. I hope that you will not be unfair to yourselves and turn yourselves into slaves again.

I would like you, brothers, to be sure and at ease, and to know that.

What we have done, what you knew we did in 1969, and what we did while underground from 1959 to 1960, was not a military coup. It was not a case of some generals who suddenly decided in the middle of the night to do it, or of a crisis in the country, or of them coming together and taking control of the country and distributing posts among them. All such experiences have failed.

We have come forth from this people itself; we suffered what the people were suffering from the police, from the shackles, from pursuits, from poverty, from deprivation. Therefore, we do not betray the masses from whom we came, and we do not betray our cause for which we put ourselves at risk. We cannot betray the deprived masses and those aspiring to freedom, from whom we came and for the sake of whom we put ourselves in danger. As I have said, who can engage in one-upmanship over this?

This is an historical action, an action that history has written down. No one can erase it. You may try to steal it, but even if you do, you would not be able to erase it. At the secondary school in Misrata, in the 2d year of secondary education, they said: We want to edit a paper in English to be put up on walls in the school, in English. It was St. Johnson, the inspector general, and the Englishmen who were there. The point is that they said we want a newspaper to be put up on walls. They said: Well, you, this pupil and that pupil, you do it. I and Muhammad Khalil and a group did it. We called it "The Sun."

Naturally, for the stupid sun means the usual sun. I meant freedom. [applause and chants] I wrote under the title "sun" in small letters in English, in English—excuse me—the sun is brilliant for all [last six words in English]. This means the sun shines for all. [applause]. Freedom means freedom for all. Anyone has the right to freedom as he has right to the sun. The sun cannot change its course to favor one over another. As the sun shines for all, freedom is a right for all.

This was our dream when we were pupils. Why should you wrong us by turning us into jailers who prevent people from walking out, from living with their families or from ruling their countries? [applause] We are the wronged ones. If there was any reasonableness in this country I would sue you, because you have wronged me and my colleagues, the liberators and those who fight for freedom, those who have put themselves at risk for freedom.

I would pursue you in justice at the people's court, because you have wronged us. I would then ask for our rights and reconsideration to be given back to us, because you have turned us into jailers before the world, while we are liberators and saviors, not only for yourselves but for all enslaved people.

This newspaper that we see everyday—sometimes we read it and sometimes we do not—and that we use contains a symbol with meaning, I am glad to have the opportunity to say it, I have called it: "Al-Fajr al-Jadid," and I was the one who drew up these marks like the sun. [applause], Because by it I mean something which, regrettably, we did not understand. We sometimes tread on this paper without realizing its meaning. Such symbols are sacred. I had drawn up these marks and called them Al-Fajr al-Jadid because I wanted the 5th day to be a new dawn on this land, the Arab land, and in the world. [applause and chanting]

We also mean that every day is a new dawn. This means that every day when you read the news, you read the news from the new dawn. The new dawn means a dawn of freedom, it means liberation, light, the sun rising, the beginning of songs by birds and people, the beginning of work in the fields, and the start of production and artistic creations. Every morning, I mean you should [words indistinct] this is very sacred for me. You did not understand. Every morning you read the news of the new dawn. There is a new dawn every day. The dawn has meaning that needs a lecture to explain. You did not work in the dark, you did not create sunset. Dawn.

This reflects our convictions, our aspirations, and thirst for freedom. What did you [word indistinct] yourselves? This is not our crime. This is the charge you are accused of. You wronged yourselves. This is what put you in prison and prevented you from traveling. As for me personally, this is very easy. [Words indistinct] As for me, these lists [words indistinct]. As for me personally, I am doing my duty to liberation and freedom.

Beginning today, you are free to travel and you are responsible for yourselves. But from now on, organize your situation in your basic people's congresses and in your [word indistinct]. As for me personally, these people, whom the Jamahiriyah Security Authority considers dangerous and should not be allowed to travel, I will let them. I am not afraid of those who were stopped by the Jamahiriyah Security Authority.

This is the list of those stopped by the Armed Forces. [applause] This is the list of those stopped by the revolution security prosecution office. [applause] This is the list of those stopped by the military police from leaving their country. They are free. [applause] This is the list of those stopped by the military intelligence. [applause] This is the list of those stopped by police stations everywhere in the Jamahiriyah. [applause] This is the list of those stopped by the revolutionary committees; the revolutionary committees that fight for freedom stop the people. Here. [applause] [words indistinct]

This huge dossier is of those stopped by investigators. [applause] This is the dossier of those stopped by investigators. [applause] [Words indistinct] new additions from internal security. [words indistinct] As for this box, these are the passports detained and if I throw them away, then they will be lost; let their owners come and take them. These are the passports and let their owners come get them. [applause] [words indistinct]

Forward brothers, let us struggle, let us struggle for Palestine, let us struggle for Arab unity, for the consolidation of freedom on Libyan soil. Forward, Libyans, men and women, side by side, shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand; forward once more in the free Jamahiriyah to cleanse the area of freedom for all those who are returning to it from everywhere. Forward brothers; the struggle continues until the achievement of our purposes. [Words indistinct]

Al-Qadhdhafi Denies Charges of Terrorism

LD130943 Kuwait KUNA in English 0904 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 13 (KUNA)—Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi refused to accept that his country was a source of terrorism in an interview with three Arab papers published Sunday. Al-Qadhdhafi also denied that there was a power struggle in Libya while calling for comprehensive Arab unity in the interview conducted with Kuwaiti "AL-WATAN", Egyptian "SAWT AL-ARAB" and UAE "AL-KHALIJ" newspapers.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that his country does not sponsor terrorism and added "Libyans do not command diplomacy and thus fail to express their stands that they are not terrorists."

He affirmed that any historic turning point such as that taking place in Libya is met with misunderstanding and denied presence of power struggle in Tripoli since all the people are in control of power.

The rule of the masses will eventually spread to cover the whole world, the Libyan leader said, adding that what is going on in Libya is the initiation of the history of the new man and a turning point in the world's political history.

The Libyan leader called for comprehensive Arab unity and supported attaining that goal gradually saying for example Libya and Algeria could unite and later expand to include all Arab Maghreb countries.

He hailed his country's relations with Algeria and noted that a unity draft formula is currently being discussed between the two countries and said that it is open for other Maghreb countries to join.

Asked on his country's relations with Syria, he said they are "very good", elaborating that "we are both in one trench and noted that the same thing applies to relations with the Yemen Arab Republic which he said is heading to the rule of the masses. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Shifting to relations with Egypt, the Libyan leader said that his country's media will ignore all news of Egypt until a change to the better takes place.

He also said that Libya was pursuing efforts with various PLO factions to achieve Palestinian national unity.

General People's Congress Issues Statement

LD102314 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Ra's al-Unuf, Mirrikh [March] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The General People's Congress issued last night, at the end of its work sessions, the following final statement:-

The General People's Congress, a vocal point of the people's committees and congresses, as it gathers at the city of "Ra's Al-Unuf" on the Gulf of defiance, where the Arab pride stands tall in front of American challenges, represent the huge materialistic achievements which are causing the colonial forces distress.

Add to that what the leader of the revolution outlined at his opening ceremonial speech, asserting freedom and taking measures beyond belief, when he destroyed the prisons and declared the final emancipation of the human being from all repressing chains.

Today we salute our Arab people in occupied Palestine, as they confront a created entity supported by American imperialism. We salute their revolution which flared in defiance to that arrogant demented power, proving the pan-Arab pride and the right of Arab people to defend their legitimate rights at a time when we witness Arab rulers fall over terms of surrender begging for the rights which could only be taken forcefully from the colonialists.

This revolution confirmed that the way to liberate Palestine and to regain the Arab legitimate right is through the armed struggle, by confronting the Zionist enemy and declaring war against it.

From this place we call upon all Arab regimes, especially the front line states encircling Palestine, led by the 8th. of March revolution, to open up their frontiers for the armed struggle and to consolidate the popular revolution of the children of stones so as to remove this poisonous blade from the heart of the Arab nation, in revenge for the martyrs, for the honour, the dignity and for the Holy Land.

The General People's Congress salutes the steps taken by the new leadership of Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali in Tunisia, which gave the country its original Arab identity and put it on the right track, rich with its history of struggle and armed with a pan-Arab unitarian accord, established early with the new dawn in Tunisia, by burning all the old cards and looking forward to an integrated Arab effort which will open new horizons for the eventuality of achieving the pan-Arab goals of liberation, unity and development.

What happened in Tunisia is a blissful start and signs of hope that planted love in place of hatred and furthered the pan-Arab consolidation and brotherhood. It enabled

the brother in Tunisia to regain their role and hence contribute in the Arab and international endeavour to expand the pan-Arab struggle on the expense of the present state of partition.

The General People's Congress, as it witness and apprehend this genuine change in the sisterly Tunisia, salutes with honour and high acclaim President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and Arab nation in Tunisia, for taking that daring step, and asserts its solidarity with the new era in Tunisia, giving all the support and helping him in his efforts to rebuild the new Tunisia on the basis of Arab integration leading to the establishment of the unified Arab homeland.

The congress, as it highly appreciates the geniune results achieved through the leader of the revolution's pan-Arab mission to Tunisia after it rid itself from the nightmare that besieged it for so long, approves the measures and the set of co-operative and integrating programmes between the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia and stresses the need to enhance and promote the unifying endeavours in the Arab Maghreb region leading to the fulfillment of the grand pan-Arab unity, the dream of all Arab nations and future generations, so as to repel dangers and bring to an end the state of deterioration and Arab divisionism.

So carry on from victory to victory, go along and continue the struggle till the ultimate and total victory over imperialism, Zionism and reactionary forces could be attained.

International Peoples Congress Sets Resolutions

LD111215 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Ra's al-Unuf, 10 Mar, JANA—The International General Peoples Congress formulated the resolutions of the masses of the international congresses at the end of its proceedings in Ra's al-Unuf yesterday evening.

Here is the text of the resolutions formulated by the congress:

In affirmation of the people's authority and embodying direct democracy, the International General Peoples Congress was held 2-9 March. The members of the congress were very fortunate to be able to witness history in the making.

The significance of the events taking place in this great country where tradition and progress meet under the wise leadership of the great internationalist leader, Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, can be better assessed if we look at the general picture now prevailing in the world. The forces of evil have met and joined together to eliminate any human attempt to live in freedom and peace.

The imperialist forces under the leadership of the United States work for the persecution of downtrodden and poor people in Nicaragua, Panama, Lebanon, Haiti, and the countries of Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Meanwhile, the racist government in South Africa works for the destruction and persecution of the black majority, while the Zionists, under the protection of the United States, commit the most horrible crimes against women, children, and youths in Palestine. These crimes are unique in history.

At this moment, the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution is issuing loud calls urging the people of the world to awaken and stand together as one against the imperialist forces.

In addition, he is offering his people one achievement after another. Giant petrochemical groups and industrial projects, particularly the great man-made river—one of the marvels of the world—are considered invaluable gifts, the hope of all people on earth. The basic liberty practiced through the people's power, the pulling down of jails and the release of prisoners—both Libyans and foreigners—are regarded as attempts to create an ideal state, one that strengthens and consolidates the freedom and happiness of mankind.

The great leader shows an equal interest in the condition of the persecuted and downtrodden people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The great Jamahiriyah is the land of genuine freedom for all the people of the world. It is yet another step in his firm conviction of the need to create a free and happy world where peace prevails.

Observing his great, continuous efforts for world peace and the freedom of man, we, the members of the International Congress, put ourselves under his wise leadership, and decide the following:

1) We strongly condemn the imperialist conspiracies against the Great Jamahiriyah and the great leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. We believe that the imperialist forces, after suffering failures in their aggression against the Gulf of Sidra, their raids on peaceful cities, their hideous crimes, the killing of women and children, and after their bitter defeat at the northern borders, hatched their plot to attack the southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah.

We believe that the Aozou strip is an indivisible part of Liyan territory. Therefore, the members of the congress put themselves under the leadership of the great thinker in order to defend not only the Aozou strip, but all of the Great Jamahiriyah's interests around the world.

2) We back and support all revolutionary, liberation, and peace-loving movements in the world concerned with South Africa's apartheid regime and the states backing it. We stand with the oppressed states in Latin America and

other colonized countries. We also stand beside the international leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who endeavors to liberate people.

3) We condemn and abhor the horrific crimes and massacres being commited by the Zionist occupation forces in occupied Palestine to put down the state revolution. The congress express its firm belief that Palestine is Arab, and that the Palestinian Arab people must return to their land victorious. In this respect the secretaries of the International Congress declare their material and moral support for the Palestinian cause. The congress demands that the United Nations intervene to stop the horrific crimes being committed by the criminal Zionists against the Palestinian people. We also strongly denounce the Arab summit held in Amman, which represents nothing but the extension of the stable David, and demand that all states that have resumed relations with Egypt severe those relations immediately.

4) The International Congress reaffirms its earlier resolution to form an international army, and reaffirms the resolutions of the non-aligned states to end the horrific crimes in Lebanon, Palestine, and South Africa; this international army should fight on two fronts with every available means.

5) Due to the failure of the United States in all the tension spots of the world, the congress demands that the structure of the United Nations be changed, the "veto" of the big states be abolished, and the UN headquarters transfered somewhere else.

6) We highly value the efforts of the great leader to end the war between Iraq and Iran. once again we call on him to exert all his efforts to end this bloodshed, which benefits only imperialism and Zionism.

7) The International Congress strongly denounces the French and U.S. military intervention in Chad, which endagers peace in Africa. We call for the withdrawal of U.S. and French forces from Chad.

8) We believe that the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting does not serve the small and poor nations.

9) The International Congress demands that the non-aligned states hold their next summit in the land of freedom, the land of the Great Jamahiriyah.

10) The basic people's congresses all over Italy believe that a broadcasting station should be opened to broadcast in other languages, particularly those of the Mediterranean Sea nations, to spread the news of what is happening in the Great Jamahiriyah.

11) The congress emphasizes that the theory laid down in the Green Book, which presents the final solution to political, economic, and social problems, is considered the basis of man's freedom and happiness. The congress expresses its readiness to spread the concepts of the Green Book to the present and future generations, and demands that the Green Book be taught in the Jamahiriyah's schools.

12) The International People's Congress emphasizes the need to unify the Chadian revoluitonary forces to confront French, U.S., and reactionary interests in Ndjamena. It also demands that all peace-loving nations intervene to solve this problem.

Message Condemns Closure of PLO Mission

LD131249 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli 13 Mar JANA—The brother secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has sent a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Here is the text:

We have repeatedly pointed out the seriousness of the irresponsible and arbitrary practices carried out by the U.S. Administration against missions and officials of UN member countries, which are blatant violations of all international laws and norms. Today, we record with much regret the U.S. Administration's determination to pursue its hostile and presumptuous policy against the UN and peoples struggling to achieve freedom and independence, as evidenced by its decision to implement the decision to shut down the PLO's observer mission to the UN on 21 March.

Such a suppressive measure by the U.S. can only be construed as the U.S. Administration's submission to Zionist pressures and blackmail, and as continued blatant enmity and racist measures against the Arab nation and the Palestinian Arab people, which is endeavoring to recover its legitimate rights through the current, overwhelming, popular uprising against the Zionist racist occupation, which is using every illegal means to quell it, with the U.S. Administration's cooperation.

This decision by the U.S. Administration constitutes a blatant violation of the Headquarters Agreement of 1947, as well as United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 3237, 210, 229a, and 229b, which were adopted during the United Nations General Assembly's 29th and 42d sessions. It represents, furthermore, contempt for the international will, the U.S. disrespect for its own commitments toward the UN, and a dangerous precedent which can be applied to the rest of the missions to the UN. This matter has reaffirmed what we have repeatedly told you:

The United States is no longer qualified to host the UN headquarters. The international community should, therefore, shoulder its responsibility and try to transfer the UN headquarters to another peace-loving country.

While I applaud the efforts you have made to find a solution to this problem, I would still like you to take all measures you deem suitable to preserve the PLO's mission to the UN. I would like you to kindly distribute this message as a document of the United Nations General Assembly's 42d session, in accordance with Clauses 38 and 138 of its agenda.

Message Protests U.S. 'Pressures' on Panama

LD131432 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison sent a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, in which he wrote:

The United States has been applying all sorts of political and military pressures on the Republic of Panama, which is a member of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement. These pressures have been stepped up to the level of threats of direct military intervention to violate Panama's sovereignty.

The provocative U.S. military maneuvers which the U.S. forces have started in the region of the Panama Canal are but a beginning to this expected aggression. The hostile declarations by U.S. officials against the Republic of Panama and the economic measures directed against the Panamanian people can only be explained by the fact that the United States is preparing for a direct aggression on Panama by means of the 82d Batallion, following the example set in Grenada.

The international community, represented by the United Nations, must take a decisive stand against the threat to the Republic of Panama posed by the United States, which is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, in order to prevent the recurrence of the Grenada catastrophe.

The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison also sent a similar message to the foreign minister of Zimbabwe, in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

Foreign Envoys Summoned

LD131438 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison today summoned the ambassadors of the Latin American countries, socialist countries, India, Yugoslavia, Algeria, and China over of the U.S. threats against the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Panama.

Aircraft Return From Egypt; Pilots Comment

LD112215 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2055 GMT 11 Mar 88

[text] The four aircraft of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces have returned to the soil of the Great Jamahiriyah. They were forced to land at an Egyptian airport recently because of bad weather and lack of fuel.

The pilots made a statement to JANA in which they explained the circumstances of this incident. They said: We were flying on a training mission from Aozou base to Baninah. Because of bad weather conditions we were unable to land at Baninah, so we carried on toward the (Nasir) base. We found ourselves near an Egyptian airport. Consequently, we decided to land because we were running short of fuel, and out of care for the safety of the aircraft, needed by the Arab nation to defend its fateful causes.

They said: We were given a good welcome by our brothers in the Egyptian Air Force and air defense units. We landed in safe conditions, were supplied with fuel, and returned safely to the homeland.

The Libyan Arab pilots replied to allegations spread by the Western mass media concerning this incident. They said that these allegations are false, biased, and totally unfounded. They stressed that the soil of the Great Jamahiriyah is one of freedom, people's authority, the focal point of revolutionaries, and free people's power.

Concluding their statement, they said: We express our thanks and appreciation to the brothers in the Egyptian Arab Armed Forces for the care shown during our presence in Egyptian territory. They said that the mere idea of defecting to another country, as suggested by the hostile trumpets of the Western mass media, does them no honor.

Tripoli television will tonight broadcast interviews it held with the Libyan Arab pilots following their return to the soil of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Egyptians Urged 'To Slay' Israelis, Americans

NC132103 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has ruled out any rapprochement between Egypt and Libya, saying it would be best for the two countries to ignore each other.

In an interview with Egyptian newspaper SAWT AL-'ARAB, Al-Qadhdhafi called on Egyptians to demolish the Israeli Embassy in Cairo and to slay American and Israeli nationals in Egypt.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Tunisian President

LD121502 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1045 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Mar (JANA)—A telephone contact has taken place between the brother leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of fraternal Tunisia, after President Ben Ali's return from his visit to Saudi Arabia.

Sudan's Al-Mirghani Arrives for Visit 13 Mar

LD132041 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 13 Mar (JANA)—Brother Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council in Sudan, arrived in Tripoli this evening with an accompanying delegation for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

In a statement to JANA upon his arrival, the chairman of the State Council in Sudan said that the visit comes within the franework of strengthening fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries in all spheres, to hold talks on all that benefits the Arab nation, and also to discuss the problems of the area for the sake of finding solutions that realize peace and stability.

He added that the popular revolution in occupied Palestine and the ways of ensuring support for it will be among the first matters to be discussed during this visit.

He said: In Sudan we support and back this revolution with all our strength and potential.

The chairman of the State Council in fraternal Sudan is accompanied by Trade and Supply Minister Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil.

USSR Economy Advisor Addresses Media

LD111524 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr "Yuriy Zilinitiski", the economy adviser in the Soviet Union Embassy in Great Jamahiriyah [name and title as received], in a press conference at the Soviet wing in Tripoli international fair yesterday, has reaffirmed the joint co-operation between his country and Great Jamahiriyah.

He adds that they highly appreciate the progressive course taken by Great Jamahiriyah at all levels.

He points that the technical, scientific and trade programmes concluded between the two countries has furthered the bilateral co-operation based on common interest and mutual respect. The 2 countries, he reaffirms, are bound by strategic relations and joint struggle agaisnt imperialism and Zionism.

He welcomes the establishment of in vestment projects in his country.

He asserts that the participation of his country in this fair aims at witnessing the achievements brought about by the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and to promote the exchange of trade and strengthen economic relations between the 2 friendly countries.

The director of the Soviet wing has expressed that his country is prepared to participate in implementing the ambitious projects in Great Jamahiriyah and consolidate the industrial base that serves the aspirations of the Libyan Arab people to achieve a better future.

British Engineer Released From Jail 13 Mar

LD131424 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1225 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Engineer James Abra, the last British prisoner held in a Libyan jail, was set free today.

News of his release came in a brief statement from the Foreign Office in London after Colonel al-Qadhdhafi fulfilled a promise he made last week.

The Libyan leader had announced that he intended to free all foreign prisoners in the country—and Britain requested the release of 59-year-old Mr Abra, from Hitchin, Herts.

He had served three years of a life sentence for alleged spying, after being arrested in January 1984.

The Foreign Office said today: "James Abra has been released into the custody of the head of the British interest section of the Italian Embassy in Tripoli.

"It is unlikely that he will leave Tripoli today."

There was no immediate information about Mr Abra's condition.

Mr Ron Brown, Labour MP for Edinburgh Leith, who has close personal links with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, flew to Tripoli yesterday and stated he was "very optimistic" that the release could be quickly set up.

Mr Abra was working for Plessey when he was arrested and jailed for allegedly passing secret information about Libyan radar defences to a foreign government.

His wife, Radka, died last July of a heart attack.

Thanks Qadhdhafi, People

LD131629 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1447 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Mar (JANA)—Affirming what was stated in the speech by the brother leader of the revolution at the General People's Congress on the occasion of

the 11th anniversary of the proclamation of people's power and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history—that the Great September Revolution, since its inception has been a shout of freedom and a rebellion against the fetters which used to shackle the peoples not only in Libya, but also in the Arab world and elsewhere—today has witnessed the release of a foreign prisoner, British citizen James Leonard Abra.

The handing over of the prisoner was attended by British MP Ron Brown, the Italian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah, the Italian general consul in Tripoli, and the director of consular affairs at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Great Jamahiriyah.

The British citizen expressed his happiness and great gratitude toward the great historic action taken by the brother leader of the revolution, as embodied in the demolition of prisons and the release of prisoners.

He said that I and my cellmates were overjoyed when we heard that Col al-Qadhdhafi was to demolish the prisons and free the prisoners.

He said that at first I could not believe it, and I did not imagine that I would be among those who would be set free. However, this has really happened, and here I am a free man.

He added: I am very pleased with this heroic step, that nobody expected to happen at any time. I thank the leader of the revolution, and the Libyan people, for this good treatment and for freeing us.

Sudan

28 'Citizens' Released From Libyan Prison

JN141033 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum Mar 14 (SUNA)—Libya had recently set free some of 28 Sudanese citizens who were serving prison sentences in Banghazi prison the Sudans embassy in Tripoli announced yesterday. An embassy source said necessary measures would be taken to organize their repatriation home. The citizens were released in accordance with an amnesty decision issued by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qahddhafi.

Ethiopian Labor Minister Arrives on Visit

JN111045 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 11 (SUNA)—The Ethiopian minister of labor and social wellfare Shimellis arrived here yesterday [word indistinct], he is the first Ethiopian official to visit Sudan since the two countries failed to convene a joint ministerial committee last Jan. The Ethiopian official is here to take part in the ministerial conference for planning and development of human resources in Africa due to start tomorrow Saturday. The minister is due to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries with Sudanese officials and means of promoting them besides ways of reactivating contacts between the two countries for settling differences.

Further on Security Situation in Darfur

Defense Council Views Issues

JN111144 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Mar (SUNA)—The National Defense Council held an emergency meeting here yesterday to discuss the security situation in western and southern Sudan. The commander in chief explained that the Armed Forces are in full control of the situation in the south, and have secured the Juba-Bor road. This road, which links the Equatoria and Upper Nile Regions, was subjected to several attacks last week.

The Council also stressed the need for measures to ensure the security of citizens in the Darfur Region and to meet the requirements of sovereignty in Arai Alon [name as received]. This was based on the thorough discussion of security developments in the region, and the clashes resulting from the infilitration of the Acheikh ibn Oumar Chadian opposition forces and their pursuit by the Chadian Government forces. The Council is expected to issue decisions regarding the presence of foreign forces in Darfur.

'Foreign Presence' Protested

JN131022 Khartoum SUNA in English 0949 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 13 (SUNA)—More than 10,000 persons from Darfur Region western Sudan yesterday organized a peaceful procession in Khartoum streets protesting the deteriorating security situation and foreign interference in Darfur.

The procession which was organized by the Council of Salvation of Darfur Region marched from April Parks to the University Street in the city—downtown then to Al-Baladiyah Street where it was received by the commissioner of the national capital Karam Muhammad Karam. Nine members from the region in the Constituent Assembly—parliament have participated in the procession, two from the co-ruling the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and all the deputies of the Islamic National Front from the region while the procession was boycotting [as received] by the deputies of the Al-Ummah Party.

The chairman of the Council of Salvation of Darfur Husayn Bakr Salih the former commissioner of southern province read out a memorandum on the security situation in Darfur, addressed to the chairman of Council of State and members of the Council, prime minister and the speaker of the Constituent Assembly.

The memo urged the government to take a clear-cut decision regarding the elimination of the foreign presence in the region and to adopt the necessary means for eradicating the possession of illegal arms in the region as well as compensating the victims of the armed robbery there.

It is to be recalled that Darfur has witnessed security instability due to presence of foreign troops which belong to Chadian opposition factions and the governor of the region had denied the presence of foreign element in his region while a number of Assembly members and press have confirmed the presence of foreigners in the region. The armed robbery had spread in the region in the beginning of 1988 and more than 30 persons were reported to be killed.

Army Cited on 'Foreign Forces'

JN131037 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 13 (SUNA)—AL-USBU' newspaper today quoted an official source at the Armed Forces Command as saying that they will submit a comprehensive report on the military situation in Darfur Region. The source, who did not disclose his name to the newspaper, said there are foreign forces in Darfur who have refused to obey the evacuation and departure orders on the grounds there are other forces in the region. He told AL-USBU' they are waiting for orders to use force to expell the foreign forces.

Armed Forces Regain Control of Juba-Bor Road

EA111715 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Excerpts] AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAH reports that the Armed Forces continue to control most of the operational areas in the southern region. Continued mopping up operations in various parts of the three regions are compelling the rebel movement to withdraw and flee.

In the Equatoria Region, full control was imposed over the Juba-Bor road and communications between the two cities have been restored. The area between Juba and Torit is also being cleared. Our Armed Forces are systematically carrying out these operations.

In Upper Nile Region, our Armed Forces, in conjunction with the friendly forces, shelled rebel camps in the Fanjak area on 5 March. The camps were cut off from their supply lines. This was followed by a heavy attack conducted by the friendly forces of Anya Nya II, which destroyed these camps. In this attack about 78 outlaws were killed. A large number of wounded were also seen during their withdrawl. [passage omitted]

In the Western area, sources confirmed that the foreign troops had withdrawn from the area.

Suicide Squad Destroys Juba Radio Transmitter

EA101533 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Excerpts] A suicide platoon from SPLA forces of Hadid task force, under command of Captain Deng Agwany Atem, infiltrated into the Juba township of Gumba, destroyed and captured Radio Gumba relay and transmitting station for a period of 2 hours, on 5 March 1988 at 12 midnight.

In the same development a net of anti-personnel mines planted by the SPLA forces killed many enemy soldiers who were trying to engulf the SPLA force. The correspondent says that the enemy, from the Mudarraat bridge, Rabbuna Kuwoyyis Church, Cumba primary school, Juba University new building, and Mafao, directed their mortars and heavy machine-guns into refugee settlements, burning many houses and killing many refugees. [passage omitted]

The Bright Star commander of forces around Juba strongly warns the civilians to move away from areas surrounding army barracks, so that they do not fall victims of the enemy barbarism.

Spokesman Denies Damage

JN121534 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Mar (SUNA)—An official spokesman for the Armed Forces has denied that the raido transmission station in Juba was damaged as a result of an attack by the outlaws. In a statement released here today, he explained that last week one of the rebels tried to [approach] a refugee camp near Juba to plant a mine. However, the Armed Forces foiled this attempt. He asserted that not a single mine was planted and that the radio station was not damaged. Press reports have claimed this radio station was damaged.

Bahrain

Saudi Foreign Minister Hands Message to Amir

JN131046 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Manama, 13 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, has received a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and current GCC chairman. The message deals with the contacts undertaken by His Majesty King Fahd on behalf of GCC leaders on the major topics discussed at the GCC leaders summit. The message was delivered by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal when the amir of Bahrain received him here this morning. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and the Saudi ambassador to Bahrain.

In a statement to WAKH, the Saudi foreign minister said he briefed his highness the amir about the results of these contacts and listened to his directives with respect to the forthcoming meeting of the GCC foreign ministers ministerial council. On his talks with the Bahraini foreign minister, the Saudi minister said the two sides hold constant contacts within the framework of the consolidation of the GCC's work and the coordination of GCC countries' stands on issues of interest to the region. He said his talks also dealt with the latest developments in the Arab arena.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Manama for Doha this morning at the end of a 1-day visit to Bahrain.

Kuwait

Cabinet Denounces Closure of PLO UN Office

LD131509 Kuwait KUNA in English 1346 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 13 (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers Sunday denounced the decision taken by the United States shutting down the PLO office in New York at the time the popular uprising in occupied Palestine is gaining support and recognition worldwide. The United States decision contradicts the commitments of the host country agreement and challenges the feelings of the entire Arab nation, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid said after the weekly meeting of the Cabinet today.

He said the Council of Ministers reviewed developments in the political arena and the latest reports on development in the Gulf and Arab region and the efforts exerted at the Arab and international levels to end the Iraq-Iran war and support the popular uprising in the occupied territories.

While denouncing the decision which demonstrates flagrant animosity to the just cause of the Palestinian Arabs, the Council is surprised to see the move taken at the time the popular uprising is at its peak in the occupied Arab territories and the world support and solidarity to the inalienable national, legitimate rights of the Palestinian arabs under their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, is on the increase and the international community condemnation of the inhuman repressive practices of the Israeli forces against the innocent and unarmed sons of the Palestinian people is mounting.

Meeting under the chairmanship of the acting premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the Cabinet started off by reviewing the outcome of the visit to the country last Wednesday by King Husayn of Jordan and his talks with H.H. the Amir on a number of present Arab issues specially the Iraq-Iran war and the efforts exerted to end it and the popular Palestinian uprising and means of supporting in addition to bilateral relations, Al-Rashid said .

Saudi Foreign Minister Delivers Message, Departs

LD131751 Kuwait KUNA in English 1607 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 13 (KUNA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left here Sunday after delivering a message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to H.H. the Amir. Al-Faysal, currently on a Gulf tour, has already visited Oman, Bahrain and Qatar. Deputy Premier Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Asaymi and other senior Kuwaiti officials saw him off at the airport.

PDRY

Officials Hold 'Consultations' in Moscow

LD111510 Moscow TASS in English 1300 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Soviet-South Yemeni political consultations were held in Moscow on March 9-11 in keeping with a protocol on cooperation between the Soviet Foreign Ministry and the Foreign Ministry of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY).

The consultations were conducted from the Soviet side by First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, members of the Foreign Ministry Collegium Vladimir Polyakov, Oleg Peresypkin and heads of several units at the foreign ministry.

The PDRY side was represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id Muhsin, Ambassador Ahmad 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Ilah and head of the General Department at the Foreign Ministry A.N. Musannah.

In meetings and conversations held in a friendly, comradely atmosphere, the sides examined in detail topical problems of international politics, tasks of the struggle for disarmament and stronger peace, issues of cooperation between the two countries in the United Nations organisation and other international forum. Much attention was given to the Middle East settlement, the tense situation in the Persian Gulf and the situation in the south of the Arabian Peninsula.

The South Yemeni representatives highly assessed the Soviet Union's consistent and constructive political course directed at restructuring international relations on the basis of broad cooperation and real disarmament and the earliest settlement of regional conflicts.

Qatar

Amir Receives Saudi Foreign Minister

JN131239 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Doha, 13 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, has received a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and current GCC chairman.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal delivered the message when the Qatari amir received him here this morning. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Saudi ambassador to Qatar.

QNA reports that the message deals with the results of the contacts recently held by the Saudi monarch on behalf of the GCC leaders on the basic issues that were discussed at the eighth GCC summit which convened in Riyadh in late December. The message also deals with the current state of affairs in the region and in the Arab arena, in addition to the fraternal relations that exist between the two countries.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Doha earlier today at the end of a visit to the State of Qatar as part of a tour which also included Bahrain.

Saudi Arabia

Tunisian President, Delegation Depart 11 Mar

LD111451 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1410 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Al-Medina al-Munawwara 11 Mar (SPA)—His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia and the delegation accompanying him left Al-Medina al-Munawwara at 1500 this afternoon, at the end of his 2-day visit to the Kingdom. On leaving Al-Medina airport, his excellency was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of Al-Medina al-Munawwara Region; his excellency the acting minister of higher education; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khwayit, minister accompanying President Ben Ali; Ibrahim Sa'd al-Ibrahim, the ambassador of the Kingdom to Tunisia; a number of civil and military officials; and a delegate from the Royal Protocol Office.

Papers Criticize U.S. Move To Close PLO Office

LD140949 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0335 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Mar (SPA)—In an article entitled "The Negative Effects of Closing the Palestinian Bureau in New York," AL-MADINAH newspaper said: The United States' insistence on closing the PLO office undoubtedly indicates a misunderstanding of the severe consequences of this decision. At the forefront of the definitely negative effects of this decision is that the Shultz initiative for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East will be very difficult to accept, to say nothing about becoming an absolute failure, as the credibility of the United States as an accepted mediator between the two sides of the conflict is very important for deciding the destiny of the initiative.

The newspaper added: If the purpose of Washington's haste to implement the decision is to impress the prime minister of the Israeli enemy, Shamir, during his visit to the United States, then the result is mere hot air and would be like trying to plow the sea because the terrorist Shamir frankly announced while he was preparing to go to Washington that he does not accept anything in the document except Shultz's signature. It would be beneficial to the United States if it built its policies in the Middle East on subjective bases whose essence is justice and right. The attempt to satisfy the Israeli enemy at the expense of the real interests of the United States will not serve the cause of peace in the region and will not help to develop the existing good relations between Washington and the Arab world.

AL-YAWM newspaper described the United States' demand to the international community, represented by the United Nations, to close the PLO bureau which is recognized by a majority of countries, as a blatant defiance of international will. This makes the entire world worry about possible future steps which could be adopted by the United States if it thinks it has a free hand as far as the United Nations is concerned just because the building of that organization is in New York.

The paper said: The entire world should, now more than at any other time, stand up against the United States and reconsider whether New York is a suitable place for the residence of the international organization.

United Arab Emirates

President Leaves on 'Official Visit' To Egypt

JN131100 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, left Abu Dhabi for Cairo today on an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt at the invitation of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

During this visit, His Highness Shaykh Zayid will hold talks with the Egyptian president on current Arab and Islamic issues, the situation in the Gulf region, the developments of the Palestine question, a number of international issues of interest to both states, bilateral fraternal relations, and ways to develop bilateral cooperation within the framework of continuous consultations and coordination between the two leaders on issues of concern to Arabs and Muslims.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid is accompanied by an official delegation comprising His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, Supreme Council member and Um Al-Quwayn ruler; Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid; Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, the UAE president's representative; Shaykh Hamid ibn Ahmad al- Mu'alla, planning minister; Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, petroleum and natural resources minister; Major General Hammuda bin 'Ali, minister of state for internal affairs; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Khalifah al-Rumi; labor and social affairs minister; and Staff Colonel Shaykh Muhammad ibn Zayid, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense.

President Visits I Army Corps Sector 13 Mar

JN131756 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn visited the I Army Corps northern sector today. During a meeting with a number of senior military commanders, the president acquainted himself with the firmness of the measures to deter and defeat the aggressor invaders. [passage omitted]

UN Representative on Ending Cities War

JN112128 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA)—'Ismat Taha Kittani, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, has informed UN Security General Javier Perez de Cuellar of Iraq's commitment to halt the shelling of the Iranian cities.

A UN spokesman said that the secretary general hopes to see an end to the war as a whole as stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution No 598, calling for an end to the dispute, and not just to the cities war.

The joint meeting of the RCC and the Ba'th Party Regional Command yesterday decided to stop the shelling of the Iranian cities at 1600 [1300 GMT] today, Friday, if the Iranian side abides by five principles set by Iraq.

Papers on Cities War

JN120922 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has warned Iran that any violation of the bases that Iraq has laid to stop the war of the cities will lead to a crushing and devastating Iraqi response.

The paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said in an editorial today that the bases laid by Iraq are just and clear and that the conditions therein will remain solid and may not be violated or passed over.

The Iraqi bases stipulate that the last strike in the war of the cities be from the Iraqi side, as Iran was the aggressor; that Iran refrain from attacking Iraqi cities; that it refrain from perpetrating an act of aggression against any Arab city; that attacking cities and purely residential areas be distinguished from attacking strategic and economic facilities that contribute to the continuation of the war; and that Iran refrain from attacking Iraqi territory in areas leading to cities.

The problem of the charlatans in Iran, the paper said, is that they underestimate things and imagine Iraq's wisdom a weakness; consequently they make faulty calculations, bringing them devastation. They fall victims to their own wicked acts.

The paper emphasized that the hard and bitter lesson that Iraq taught the rulers of Iran makes it clear that these rulers can only be deterred through force and severe beatings.

It said: Iraq showed the fallacy of the sick calculations, wagers, and illusions of Tehran's rulers. It succeeded in showing the entire world, and especially the people of Iran, the incompetence of the charlatan regime and the fragility of its claims and lies. It showed that the tongue of this regime is much longer than its arm.

The paper recalled that Iran fanned the war of the cities as an expression of its incompetence and failure, and to foil international efforts aimed at implementing Security Council Resolution No 598. It also meant to distract attention from the heroic uprising in the occupied territories and the crisis of the Zionist entity, resulting from the continuation and escalation of this uprising.

In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper said: We have ended the war of the cities according to clearly declared bases, of which all parties and countries of the world that are concerned about the issues of peace and security are now aware. These are just and honorable bases set by a people who want to stop bloodshed and who seek an end to the war as a whole, not merely a part of it.

The paper added: The war of the cities is not the issue. The issue is the war as a whole. As long as this war drags on, Iran's rulers will fabricate new reasons for starting a new war of cities, as has always been the case.

The paper stressed that the Security Council, the international community at large, and all those who claim to be concerned with peace and security and with ending the war and the bloodshed must exert sincere and honest efforts to end the war.

The paper said: Iran's rulers must understand that we won the war and that their aggressive aims will never be achieved. They should understand that it is better for them to comply with the call of peace and to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 in accordance with the sequence of its operative clauses.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,068

JN111835 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA)—Iraqi helicopter gunships today ran 44 combat missions against Iranian assembly points and personnel. Military Communique No 3,068, issued by the Armed Forces General Command here this evening, said the Iraqi planes returned safely to base after they inflicted further losses in men, weapons, and equipment on Iranian forces. Following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their heroic activities in the operation sectors last night and today as follows:

1. The hero pilots today mounted 44 combat missions, inflicting on the enemy further losses in men, weapons, and equipment and then returning safely to base, thanks be to God. Glory and pride to you, O pilots of the helicopter gunships.

2. The following losses were inflicted on the enemy in the I Army Corps northern sector: 33 scoundrels killed, 10 infantry positions destroyed, 2 vehicles burned or destroyed, 2 observation posts destroyed.

3. One of the enemy personnel was killed and two infantry positions and two observation posts were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. An SPG-9 gun, a machinegun, and an observation post were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

5. The criminal Iranian regime last night and today continued shelling residential neighborhoods of Basra, Al-Sulaymaniyah, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Badrah, Qal'at Dizah, Khurmal, and Al-Kahla. The enemy shelling martyred or wounded a number of our dear citizens, including women, elderly and children. It also destroyed or damaged homes, commercial premises, schools, and civilian cars and property. May God give mercy to our martyrs and swift recovery to the wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 March 1988

Communique No 3,069

JN121751 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,069 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With a high degree of fighting spirit and an unshakable faith in eventual victory over our enemies, the praiseworthy men of Iraq continued to carry out their heroic activities last night and today. The following is a roundup of these activities:

1. We have a right to cut off the Iranian regime's oil supplies and to destroy its economic installations which are connected to its war effort. The revenues and production of these facilities are used by the charlatan regime to carry out objectives related to the war effort with the aim of perpetuating the aggression against our country in violation of the international community's will. To exercise our right, our Air Force carried out the two following missions:

a. Our aircraft last night launched a raid on a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast, scoring an effective and accurate hit.

b. At 1341 [1041 GMT] today, our aircraft dealt an air strike to the Emam Hasan oil pumping station. Having carried out their two missions, our aircraft returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our valiant units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy:

—Killing 37 scoundrels and wounding others.

—Destroying two 105-mm guns and one 107-mm tubular rocket launcher.

—Destroying seven infantry positions and two gun emplacements.

—Burning and destroying three vehicles and blowing up two ammunition dumps.

3. Two enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. One machinegun and one firing position were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Two ammunition dumps were blown up and one boat and one firing position were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. Three enemy personnel were killed and three infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

7. One vehicle was burned, one ammunition dump was blown up, and one observation post was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

8. The valiant Al-'Amiq port force spotted 14 boats that tried to approach the loading platform of the port. It handled these boats, using its weapons, and destroyed one enemy boat while the remaining boats fled the scene.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 March 1988

Strikes Detailed

JN121908 Baghdad INA in English 1715 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, March 12, INA—An Iraqi military spokesman last night summed up magnitude of the destruction afflicted Iran as a result of Iraq's devastating missile strikes and severe air raids.

The spokesman, speaking of Iraqi punishment of Iran, said "we deemed it necessary to give figures of the devastation inflicted upon Iran so our people have an idea about what had happened and so world public opinion be further informed that victory is settled in favour of Iraq, thank God, thanks to President Husayn's historical leadership and to contributions of our people and spectacular efforts of Iraqi Armed Forces."

The spokesman said that Iraq, in 60 missile strikes on Iran, fired 68 missiles, of which 58 slammed into Tehran, 8 into Qom and 2 into Esfahan.

As for the Iranian regime, the spokesman said, in spite of its prattling, it managed to fire only 21 missiles at Iraq, two of them at Mosul city and the rest at Baghdad.

The spokesman added that Iraq's Air Force dropped 731 shells, weighing 313 tons and 900 kgs of highly explosive materials on Iranian cities from March 1 up to 16:00 hours [13:00 GMT] yesterday.

Of the total amount of those explosives, the spokesman said, 34 tons were dropped on Dezful, 30 tons and 200 kgs on Ilam, 20 tons on Kermanshah, 20 tons on Hamadan, 19 1/2 tons on Shushtar, 15 tons on Pol-e Zahab, 14 tons on Sanandaj, 12 tons on Karand, 12 tons on Khorramabad, 10 tons on Saqqez, 8 tons on Shahabad, 8 tons on Bandar-e Mahshahr, 8 tons on Rasht, 6 tons and 400 kgs on Shahr-e Kord, 7 tons and 200 kgs on Marivan, 6 tons on Zanjan, 6 tons on Gilan-e Gharb, 6 tons on Miandoab, 9 tons and 200 kgs on Arak, 5 tons on Montazeri garrison, 4 tons on Razan, 4 tons on Pol-e Dokhtar, 4 tons on Taheri T.V. station, 4 tons on Dehloran, 4 tons on Azna, 4 tons on Nahavand, 3 tons and 600 kgs on Baneh, 3 tons and 200 kgs on Kuhdasht, 3 tons and 200 kgs on Ardabil, 3 tons on Karaj, 2 tons on Shiraz, 2 tons on Kashan, 2 tons on Masjed-e Soleyman, 2 tons on Qazvin, 6 tons on Borujerd, and 6 tons and 400 kgs on Do Rud.

The bombing of 37 [as received] Iranian cities with such a high momentum demonstrated a unique use of Air Force, the spokesman said, adding that the 68 missiles fired by Iraq into Iran over 12 days to precisely hit their targets there indicated Iraqi man's ability to do the impossible.

Iranian Offensive Foiled

JN130647 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—The Iraqi forces immediately repulsed an offensive launched by the Iranian forces against the II Army Corps central sector last night. An Iraqi military spokesman told this to INA this morning. The spokesman added that an Iranian force, estimated at two brigades, supported by artillery and armored vehicles, tried to carry out an offensive against Iraqi positions in the II Army Corps sector at 0100 [2200 GMT on 12 March] today.

The Iraqi forces confronted the force with artillery, tanks, and infantry weapons, repulsing the bulk of the attacking force and wiping out more than 1,000 Iranian troops in the no-man's-land area. The spokesman added that the remaining force was forced to withdraw in disarray.

The spokesman affirmed that the situation was settled in favor of the Iraqi forces at 0415 today.

Retaliation Threatened

JN131751 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1655 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 13 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On Thursday, 10 March, we announced that we would stop shelling the Iranian cities, and we laid clear and just principles for it, including Principle No 2, which stipulates that Iraq will resume the shelling of the Iranian cities with all means at its disposal if the Iranian regime resumed shelling of the Iraqi cities and villages with artillery, warplanes, missiles, or any other weapons aimed at civilian and purely residential areas.

At the set time, at 1600 [1300 GMT] on Friday, 11 March, 1988, we abided by our pledge and stopped shelling Iranian cities. But the criminal Iranian regime, which used to commit evil actions and aggression, has imagined once again that it can circumvent this issue. Once again, it started committing its crimes against the Iraqi cities and residential areas near the border. Yesterday, it started a new aggression against our national territories in the northern sector.

Meanwhile, it directed its artillery shells throughout last night and today at the city of Halabjah and a nearby residential complex. At the time this statement was prepared, 13 had been martyred, including 5 children and 2 women. The wounded numbered 70, including 24 children and 13 women. The shelling continued until this statement was prepared. Then Iran also shelled the Bandar Khan [as heard] residential complex in the Darband Khan subdistrict. The shelling martyred eight civilians and wounded nine others.

We announce to the Iranian people and to the entire world that what was said last Thursday was a decisive warning. Any aggression against our civilians deserves retaliation whether it comes against Baghdad, Al-Sulaymaniyah, or any other Iraqi village. Our retaliation for the aggression will not spare any den of the Iranian

criminal rulers in Tehran. The Iranian rulers ignited the cities war on 29 February. They were forced to stop the shelling after they were taught very eloquent lessons.

These rulers thought that they could circumvent and end the shelling of their capital, Tehran, or other cities. But they are continuing to kill the Iraqis in border cities. They will not be allowed to do that because the blood of all Iraqis is equal, and we are responsible for protecting the Iraqis in all their cities and villages.

Proceeding from this, and in light of the Iranian violation of the clear and just bases, which we announced on 10 March, and its continued crimes against civilians in Iraq, we have decided to retaliate for its crimes. We will retaliate against Tehran only once. If this criminal regime continues its aggression, we will continue to retaliate with full power. But if it halts shelling of purely residential areas in our country, we will abide by our pledge in accordance with the principles mentioned in the statement issued on 10 March.

[Dated] Baghdad, 13 March 1988

Missile Fired at Tehran 13 Mar

JN131847 Baghdad Voice of the Mases in Arabic 1828 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 13 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Pursuant to the military spokesman's statement issued this evening, a missile blow was dealt with Al-Husayn missiles to the city of Tehran at 2111 [1811 GMT] today. We repeat what was stated in the previous military statement:

If the criminal Iranian regime continues its aggression, we will continue to retaliate with full power. But if it stops shelling purely residential areas in our country, we will abide by our pledge in accordance with the offiical statement issued during a meeting of the RCC and the Ba'th Party Regional Command on 10 March.

[Dated] 13 March, 1988

Communique No 3,070

JN131959 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,070 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the determination of the men who believe in God and his permanent victory, our victorious Armed Forces are continuing their heroic struggle to defend our Iraq's dear sovereignty and our great people's dignity. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Despite the Iranian regime's losses and its failure to confront Iraq to achieve its evil intentions, it insists on aggression, ignoring God's law, the interests of its people, and the international will to end the war and bring about peace. At 0100 [2200 GMT] yesterday, the enemy sent a force of its scoundrels to attack one of our formations in the heroic Al-'Abbas Forces in the II Army Corps central sector. But our heroic men confronted it with intensive fire from their various weapons and with the support of our brave artillery and the brave men of the armored corps. Most of the attacking force was wiped out and the rest fled. The situation was settled in favor of our victorious forces.

2. Last night, an accurate and effective blow was dealt to a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast. Our planes flew 141 combat missions to carry out the aforementioned duty and other duties in the operation sectors. All of our planes returend safely to base, in God's care.

3. The heroic knights of the helicopter gunships flew 85 combat missions today, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's personnel, weapons, and equipment, and returned safely to their bases. God be praised.

4. Our forces killed 45 scoundrels, destroyed 5 infantry positions, 1 machinegun, and 1 gun, and damaged 3 bulldozers in the I Army Corps northern sector.

5. Four infantry positions, two observation posts, and three various machineguns were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. An enemy group tried to approach one of our units' ramparts in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Our forces attacked it with various weapons, killing six and wounding others. The rest fled. Elsewhere in the same sector, one infantry position and one single-barrelled machinegun were destroyed.

7. One shovel [preceding word in English], one water pump, and one enemy observation post were destroyed on the VII Army Corps front.

8. The brave force of the Al-'Amiq port confronted six enemy boats which tried to approach the port last night, forcing them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 March 1988

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN132106 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2053 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—The Iraqi Naval Force has dealt a blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. A military spokesman told INA that the blow took place at 2000 [1700 GMT] today. The target was destroyed and sunk, along with its occupants.

Communique Lists 5 Strikes

JN140743 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0623 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,071 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O lofty Iraqis: In the official statement issued on 10 March, your enlightened leadership said that Iraq will strike again if the Iranian regime repeats its bombardment of Iraqi cities and villages with artillery, aircraft, missile, or any other weapon. This was one of the bases in accordance with which we halted our devastating retaliation, through which we took vengeance for our righteous martyrs in our peaceful cities and formed a commitment to our citizens—all our civilian citizens—their life, security, and property.

Among the other bases was that Iraq will bombard Iranian cities again, with all methods, if the Iranian regime embarks on any new aggression against our international border and attempts to invade our territory through the axes leading to Iraqi cities. On the evening of 12 March, the Iranian regime violated these two conditions. That regime embarked on a new aggression against our international border in the I Army Corps sectors, attempting to invade our territory on the axes leading to Iraqi cities.

The Iranian regime also again shelled Iraqi cities with heavy artillery. It shelled the Halabjah district, directing its fire intentionally at residential areas there. It also shelled the subdistricts of Darband Khan and Sirwan. As a result, a number of civilians were martyred and wounded, including women and children, as mentioned in the military spokesman's statement yesterday.

We said that we will retaliate for these crimes, and that retaliation will be against Tehran and only once. If the criminal regime continues its aggression, we will continue to retaliate with full power. But if it adheres to its halt of shelling purely residential areas in all our country and to all the other principles, we will abide by our pledge in accordance with the principles mentioned in the statement issued on 10 March.

Last night, we dealt one strike at Tehran at 2111 [1811 GMT]. It was a warning blow, hoping that the Iranian regime will resort to wisdom. However, that regime has lost all roads to wisdom and completely boycotted the interests of its suffering people. That regime did not make any attempt to resort to wisdom, ethics, and conscience.

Instead of learning and remembering its cries and pains during the days when our missiles and aircraft pounded the Iranian cities, it committed a new aggression against our border in the I Army Corps sector, expanding the zone of shelling with artillery and rocket launchers to the cities of Basra, Al-Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Al-Majarr, and Sayyid Sadiq. That regime is also continuing to shell residential areas in the Halabjah District.

In light of this, we had to implement your will, O lofty Iraqis, and to give the Iranian rulers a new tough and hard lesson. We had to make that regime feel that meanness, shame, and maneuvering are useless with Iraq. By God, we will turn their cities upside down, we will strike at them in a way never witnessed by the history of war, and we will make them an object of ridicule in the war.

The following missile strikes were carried out:

1. At 0305 [0005 GMT] today, a destructive Al-Husayn missile strike was dealt to the city of Tehran.

2. At 0330 today, another Al-Husayn missile strike was dealt to the city of Tehran.

3. At 0530 today, a third missile strike was dealt to the city of Tehran, also using the Al-Husayn missile.

4. At 0627, a fourth Al-Husayn missile strike was dealt to the city of Tehran.

5. At 0753, a fifth missile strike using Al-Husayn missile was dealt to the city of Tehran.

O brave Iraqis, because of their excessive lies and meanness, the rulers of Iran do not know that the word of noble ones, and of Iraq in particular, is a pledge, action, and bond around their necks. We will show them the blackness of night at midday.

We will illuminate Tehran's black nights with the flames of Iraq's wrath. May God bless the hands of the brave men of the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force. God be with us.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 March

Shelling of Cities Continues

JN140823 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0758 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 14 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The criminal Iranian regime still insists on aggression. This regime has expanded its shelling with artillery and rocket launchers. Last night, it shelled the cities of Basra, Al-Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, and Al-Majarr in addition to Halabjah, Darband Khan, Sirwan, and Sayyid Sadiq.

Today, the artillery shelling of Basra, Al-Qurnah, and Halabjah has continued intensively, even while this statement was being prepared. A number of martyrs and wounded, including women and children, fell and are still falling. A number of houses, schools, and civilian property were damaged and are still being damaged. This means that the Iranian regime, which ignited the cities' war on 29 February, has been igniting it anew since yesterday, in a planned and intentional way.

Therefore, we declare to our people and to world public opinion that if the criminal Iranian regime continues to shell the purely residential areas of our cities and villages and if it does not consider our warnings, our strikes will not be confined to Tehran only, but will be directed at other cities. The Iranian regime, which ignited anew the cities war, will alone be responsible for the consequences.

[Dated] 14 March 1988

7th Strike in Renewed War

JN140943 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0914 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 14 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The criminal Iranian regime has embarked on an aggression against our international border and reignited the cities war, beginning with the Halabjah District, and has expanded it to almost all our border cities.

In implementation of what was mentioned in the official spokesman's statement on 10 March, which defined the bases for ceasing the bombardment of Iranian cities; because the Iranian regime has continued to shell our border cities; and in implementation of our warnings in the Armed Forces General Command's Communique No 3,071 issued this morning, and in the three statements issued by the military spokesman yesterday and today; a missile strike was launched at the city of Tehran with the Al-Husayn missiles at 1128 [0828 GMT] today. This is the seventh missile strike with which we responded to the Iranian regime's reignition of the cities war.

The Iranian regime's continued shelling of purely residential areas and villages means that we will continue our bombarmdent not only of Tehran but also of other Iranian cities, as we announced. Our success comes from God, our supporter.

[Dated] 14 March 1988

Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad

JN141002 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0927 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 14 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. This is new proof for the entire world of the Iranian regime's insistence on the cities war, and its intentional regniting of this war. Once again, after we ceased the strikes at Iranian cities in response to our principles, and after we proved that Iraq possesses a huge force to deter those who encroach on its cities, villages, and citizens, the Iranian regime launched one of its missiles at the city of Baghdad, our glorious capital, at 1155 [0855 GMT] today.

The missile landed in a residential area, martyring and wounding a number of civilians, including a number of old men, women, and children. Therefore, the Iranian regime will again face pains and cries. It must shoulder the simultaneous consequences of its fresh and old crimes and our devastating retaliation and tough punishment. Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 14 March 1988

'Aziz Sends Message to UN on Iranian Aggression

JN131836 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—Iraq informed the United Nations this evening that the criminal Iranian regime had resumed shelling of the Iraqi cities and residential complexes.

A message sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, says that the Iranian regime started a new aggression against our national territories in the northern sector yesterday, 12 March. It directed its artillery shells to the Iraqi city of Halabjah and a nearby residential complex throughout last night and today. At the time this message was prepared, 13 civilians, including 5 children and 2 women, were martyred and 67 civilians, including 24 children and 13 women, were wounded. The following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, New York:

Your Excellency: I have the honor to remind Your Excellency of a statement issued by an Iraqi military spokesman on Thursday, 10 March, 1988, stating that we would stop the shelling of Iranian cities in accordance with clear and just principles as of 1600 [1300 GMT] on Friday, 11 March. Iraq has actually abided by this pledge.

But the criminal Iranian regime, which knows nothing except evil, aggression, and destruction, has resumed shelling the Iraqi cities and residential complexes near the border. Yesterday, 13 March, it started a new aggression against our national territories in the northern sector. Meanwhile, it directed its artillery shells at the city of Halabjah and a nearby residential complex throughout last night and today. At the time this message was prepared, 13 civilians had been martyred, including 5 children and 2 women, and 67 civilians were wounded, including 24 children and 13 women. The shelling is still continuing.

No doubt, you recall that one of the conditions in the clear and just principles which we set for stopping the bombing of Iranian cities and which are contained in the official spokesman's statement dated 10 March is that

we will resume the bombing if the Iranian regime resumes bombing cities, villages, and purely civilian and residential areas in Iraq by artillery, Air Force, missiles, or any other weapon.

The Tehran rulers, who started the war of the cities several times in the past and also recently, in the manner I have mentioned in my letter dated 5 March 1988, are imagining today that they can cheat in order to ensure the suspension of Iraqi bombing of Iranian cities while they continue to kill Iraqi citizens in the border towns.

But what came in the official Iraqi spokesman's statement on 10 March was a categorical warning that any aggression against our civilians anywhere inside Iraq must be answered.

Based on the aforementioned, and since the Iranian regime has continued its crimes against civilians in Iraq, the Iraqi Armed Forces will reply to Tehran. If the Iranian regime continues with its crimes, then the Iraqi reply will continue strongly.

On this occasion, I would like to confirm to Your Excellency that Iraq will continue to be committed to the clear and just principles which were mentioned in the statement issued on 10 March, as long as the Iranian regime abides by the moratorium on shelling strictly residential areas in all Iraq, and by other principles.

I would like to ask Your Excellency to distribute this message as one of the UN Security Council documents. Kindly accept our highest esteem.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 13 March 1988

Further on 'Aziz Message

JN131900 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—Iraq has informed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that the number of Iraqi civilian casualities from the Iranian regime's artillery shelling of the city of Halabjah has reached 70 wounded and 8 martyred.

In a message he sent to the UN secretary general today, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, pointed out that the criminal Iranian regime's shelling of the Bandar Khan [name as received] housing complex has martyred eight civilians and wounded nine others. The following is the text of the message:

His Excellency UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, New York: Further to the message I sent you today, I would like to inform you that the criminal Iranian regime's artillery shelling of the city of Halabjah has martyred 70 Iraqi civilians. I would also like to inform you that the crimianl Iranian regime has also shelled the Bandar Khan housing complex. This new crime, which the Tehran rulers added to their record full of crimes, martyred eight civilians and wounded others.

On this occasion, I would like to stress to you what I mentioned in my previous message regarding the measures Iraq will take to reply in kind.

I would like to ask Your Excellency to distribute this message as one of the UN Security Council's documents. Kindly accept our highest esteem.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 13 March 1988

Editorial on Renewed Missile Strikes Cited

JN141029 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—In today's editorial, AL-THAWRAH says the retaliatory missile strike with the Al-Husayn missiles at the capital of crime and aggression, Tehran, is punishment to the stupid Iranian regime for its criminal acts against our cities and purely residential areas.

The paper says the Iranian regime embarked on a fresh aggression against our national territory in the northern sector and directed its artillery shells at the city of Halabjah and a nearby residential complex. The Iranian regime also shelled the Bandar Khan residential complex. As a result, many civilian martyrs and wounded fell.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Iran's big disaster is that its criminal rulers are making incorrect calculations and assessments and imagine they can peddle their games and maneuvering at any time and everywhere. The paper says: They imagined that the bombardment of their capital had ceased and, therefore, they could shell Iraqi border cities and kill Iraqis without fear of Iraq's devastating retaliation. Thus, they committed hideous crimes against our civilians.

AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that this Iranian regime's course indicates clearly that it still insists on continuing aggression against our country. It also insists on adhering to its criminal practices against our cities and our purely residential areas. The paper adds that the desperate Iranian regime should know full well that we are firmly determined to make it pay heavily for this aggressive, criminal conduct.

The paper says that Tehran's Zionists are the ones who shelled our cities anew, killing our women and children. They deserve punishment for this. They should also bear the consequences of their crimes and stupid conduct.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH affirms that they are responsible for the consequences and effects that their aggressive acts will have on their country and people. Despite all their suffering and pain, they have not learned.

Shamir Remarks on U.S. Visit, Own Proposals
TA130623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami in the prime minister's office—live]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, I would like to ask you a question: Will you leave for Washington without the Cabinet arming you with an official Israeli position?

[Shamir] I have already explained I am leaving for Washington to hold talks on the various parts of the plan presented to us by the secretary of state. I believe that at the completion of the talks, after I return home with a review of the discussions with the U.S. Administration, the Inner Cabinet will meet immediately, and I believe it will reach a decision on this issue.

[Ben-'Ami] Can you estimate what this decision will be, and can you estimate what Israel's position will be on this issue after your return?

[Shamir] I do not want to guess. Time is short. It is a question of a week and then we will sit down to decide.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, the interview you gave at the end of the week to HA'ARETZ aroused concern in the United States. The headlines in one of the newspapers quotes administration sources as saying that your remarks are a public slap in the face to Shultz. The question is whether it was necessary to issue such a negative and sharp public declaration, which aroused opposition to us even before your visit?

[Shamir] Well, my views are generally known to Mr Shultz, and to all the others interested in them. I do not hide my views. I did not offend anybody. It is a matter of discussions in a debate with friends. We know each other, we know each other's thoughts, and it might even be useful for my interlocutors to know, prior to the discussions or during the discussions, the points I consider very important.

[Ben-'Ami] Will your interlocutors in Washington find it easy, Mr Shamir, to understand the overall Israeli political picture? At the very time you will be appearing in the media and various forums, Knesset Member Abba Eban will also be appearing, traveling in your footsteps. How do react to this company?

[Shamir] I am indifferent. It does not interest me in the least. I will deal with my mission, and that is all.

[Ben-'Ami] Would you be prepared to hint to us what the plan is that you propose suggesting in order to change and improve the Shultz proposals? What can be done to save the situation?

[Shamir] I have various ideas and proposals because all the time, day and night, we think about the possibilities of achieving peace between ourselves and our neighbors. What was proposed to us does not match what we consider important and believe should lead to the desired target. Therefore, I will propose ideas to my interlocutors, some of which they know, and they might be able to present even today to their Arab interlocutors.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, when we study the Israeli position, at least your position, which does not accept this initiative, should we not be discussing early elections in order to find out the views of the people? To find out what the nation wants?

[Shamir] I do not think that early elections should be part of the political process and the debate. There are various proposals for early elections. The proposals are legitimate, and I think that they represent the difficulties involved in the present situation. It makes it very hard for the two main political blocs to continue together in the Cabinet when one bloc violates the rules of the game. We will discuss this on my return. At present, I am totally immersed in the political issue.

[Ben-'Ami] Does the plan you recalled a moment ago, your new ideas, include giving up territories in exchange for peace?

[Shamir] I do not want to divulge parts of this plan here. I do not see the need for Israeli concessions when we discuss peace with our Arab neighbors. In the final analysis, at least two sides must take part in the peace process. Everyone must be ready to make concessions.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, do we know what Jordan's position is? We know for instance that Syria yesterday formally rejected this plan. We have not heard anything from Jordan, but on the other hand, King Husayn invited Yasir 'Arafat to Amman.

[Shamir] I do not know Jordan's position nor its attitude to the secretary of state's plan. I hope to learn more in Washington. We know that when Jordan makes a decision on its position, it takes the Syrian stand into serious consideration.

[Ben-'Ami] Another question about the Washington visit. We said at the opening that in fact the Shultz initiative is the central issue, but not the only one. We said in one of our broadcasts this week that you will try to secure the strategic cooperation with the United States for the coming administration. What is the importance of this target?

[Shamir] That is correct. You did not make a mistake this time. We have had some important bilateral issues, and it is well known that in the past few years we have achieved cooperation with the United States in various

areas, including the strategic field, and we want to build on this as it is important and useful to the United States and to us, and to the relations between us.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, I would like to ask you a question on a different subject. Reports were published last night that you and the justice minister agreed in principle to pardon most members of the Jewish underground close to Independence Day. Do you confirm or deny this?

[Shamir] I was very surprised by this item. What connection do I have with pardoning anybody? The right, the authority, to pardon lies only with the president of the state, and I never considered intervening in this issue, and in fact I do not intervene.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you support pardoning them?

[Shamir] My position is known. I think that these people should be freed and return to their homes.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. I would like to wish you a good and successful trip.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Determined To Change Document

TA111111 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
11 Mar 88 p B1

[Report on an interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yo'el Marcus: "Pressure Does Not Work With Me"]

[Text] "The only word I accept in the Shultz document is the signature bearing his name. Except for this, the document does not serve peace and does not bring it even 1 inch closer. Therefore, I cannot accept it as it stands." This was said by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in a lengthy conversation I held with him in his office in Jerusalem yesterday, on the eve of what is being described as his historic trip to the United States.

With surprising frankness, Shamir spoke of the violation of U.S. commitments and of their denying agreements and letters signed by them, and admitted that he is departing for the United States filled with determination to change the document. He hopes that no pressure will be exerted on him, but admits that he will not be afraid even if it is. "Pressure does not work with me."

I responded: The document says, however, that the plan is a package deal and that every change will require a new shuttle mission.

Shamir answered: "Is this written in the document? So it is written! We are dealing here with the fate of countries. So what if the Americans have more diplomatic work? For them it is a small matter, for us it is fateful."

The prime minister answered a long list of questions dealing with his dramatic trip to the United States, the disturbances in the territories, the possibility of early elections, and his relations with Shim'on Peres. Here are the gist of his positions as expressed in his answers:

On the Shultz document: "This is a heavy, awkward document with an extremely tight and brief timetable, and there is nothing in it which can guarantee Israel's safety and security. It is entirely aimed at appeasing the Arabs. I am unequivocally opposed to the international conference. When so many Arab elements (including the PLO) support the conference, one would have to be naive to believe that they would demonstrate such enthusiastic support for a sterile conference. Shultz himself, who in the past opposed a conference, has no argument to support it other than that Husayn insists on it, and this is the opposite of direct negotiations."

Question: Then what would you accept?

Answer: "If Husayn needs auspices, then I agree to a one-time event in which the two superpowers would invite the sides for talks, and this would be the end of the matter. The Americans agreed to this but Husayn did not, and this proves that Husayn is not looking for auspices but rather for an active international element which would pressure Israel. He wants the Soviet Union to be active because he does not trust the United States. He is too suspicious of its pro-Israeli orientation."

Question: What else do you find unacceptable in the document?

Answer: "For example, that the sides to the conference are not countries but 'sides' who are involved in the conflict, and because it is the UN secretary general who will send out the invitations, he is sure to invite the PLO. It is true that the United States set certain restrictions for negotiations with the PLO, but these are restrictions acceptable to the United States. We never accepted them. And even in these restrictions there is a tendency to yield."

Question: How?

Answer: "For example, no mention is made of the need to recognize Israel's right to exist. The Americans tell us that such a demand is beneath our dignity, but this is not true. The PLO must renounce its principles.

"There is no mention in the document of direct negotiations, only of bilateral negotiations. This gives Husayn leeway to avoid direct negotiations and to claim that even a shuttle mission is a bilateral trip. Nowhere does the document mention a 'peace treaty.' It speaks of comprehensive peace, which amounts to wishful thinking. This, too, coincides with the Arab conception. I do not accept the statement that the United States will submit its own draft agreement upon the opening of the talks on an interim agreement. This issue has very

important ramifications, because we know that the U.S. position is the Reagan plan. Once they express their position, there is no chance that the Arabs will settle for anything less."

Question: Is the game fixed?

Answer: "I am not using that expression, but the kind of U.S. involvement proposed in the document will carry great weight. I do not accept the document as it stands.

"On the face of it, the document is based on the Camp David Accords, but this was done by leaving out all the elements Israel finds convenient and by emphasizing and perpetuating everything the Arab side finds convenient."

Question: Do you have any indication whether Husayn accepts the document?

Answer: "Husayn is trying to consolidate a pan-Arab position, and it is not hard to guess why. In my opinion he should be satisfied, because he is not required to give anything."

What are the chances of trying to change the document?

"Before Shultz left he indicated that this is not a document that cannot be changed. My positions are clear: I do not need a conference. I do not know what it can contribute. I will try to return to the language and essence of Camp David. Autonomy offers the Palestinian population many advantages and offers us many security valves. It requires negotiations but can be implemented. I stand by the proposal I made last October (for an invitation by the superpowers for an opening). The negotiations on a final solution will start after autonomy has been implemented. After all, it was as a result of this agreement that we did not implement Israeli law over the territories! I am convinced that after a period of such coexistence there will be a good atmosphere which will enable us to agree on and reach a final solution. This is the most realistic way.

"The interlocking between an interim arrangement and the final settlement proposed in the document prevents negotiations on an interim arrangement. The negotiations on an interim arrangement will end before they start, because we know Husayn's negative opinion of autonomy. This is a breach of an explicit guarantee given to Begin by President Reagan, and in fact it is an abrogation of the Camp David Accords. We are asked to give up this agreement because Jordan is not a party to it. But we, the United States, and Egypt are committed to it. There are letters and commitments to the effect that this is the only binding agreement for solving the conflict. If these commitments are abrogated, this will cast doubt on the validity of new agreements made with the United States. Who can guarantee us that the Shultz agreement will be more valid?"

Question: Will you demand to change the document, or will you seek a memorandum of understanding?

Answer: "I will demand to change the plan. A memorandum of understanding will not be able to solve problems when we are dealing with an official document that heads of state must sign."

About U.S. pressure: "Disagreement should not harm the substance of bilateral relations. In fact, there has never been full agreement between the two countries on our policy. The current and previous U.S. presidents told us that relations of cooperation would continue despite the disagreement between the two countries over vital issues such as Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and so forth."

Question: How do you assess your chances of budging Shultz?

Answer: "On an issue that fundamentally concerns us we must take action so that our position is accepted. If our position is partially accepted now, we will see about the future later. It is imperative for us to make this effort and we should not come to terms with harming the interest of peace. I told Shultz as much and he understood. I do not think pressure will be brought to bear on me."

About the riots in the territories: "Measures to terminate this situation must be adopted. The security forces can calm the situation. Somebody may argue that this is not a long-term solution and that peace solutions are needed. I am in favor of that, but the current situation in the territories cannot continue, and it is the government's duty to put an end to the riots. That must be possible, and that is also what will be."

Question: Do you believe a solution that does not entail peace in exchange for territories is possible?

Answer: "I believe a solution that does not compel anybody to betray his beliefs and principles is possible. Yes, such a possibility does exist." Question: Some people actually wonder why you do not take your ideology to its logical conclusion and annex the territories?

Answer: "The ideology exists, the goal is the whole of Eretz Yisra'el. As a state, however, we are committed to the Camp David Accords. There are international obligations. We are not an island."

About the elections: "My goal is for elections to be held as scheduled. In Norway there is a law that bans bringing elections forward, and that makes sense. It gives a feelings of stability."

Question: But there is talk about elections.

Answer: "The Alignment changes its position every other week. A week ago they did not want elections, but now they do. At one time Peres said that a small majority

can tip the scales, and now he says it cannot. If the two sides reach the conclusion that elections are necessary we will go along with it, but without pulling any tricks, only on a mutually agreed date. I will not talk about Peres, but this argument has taken inconceivable forms. There are rules to the game which must be kept, but unfortunately they are not."

At the end of our talk I asked Shamir whether he agrees with what Shultz said about him yesterday in Washington, that he is "tough on the outside, but soft on the inside."

Shamir's reply: "I think the opposite is true. I look soft on the outside but I am tough on the inside."

Seeks 'Mutual Concessions'

TA140547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] In a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure for the United States last night, the prime minister expressed his confidence that the United States will not exert pressure on Israel. At the same time, he said that mutual concessions will be necessary. He was seen off at the airport by Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres—the two shook hands and smiled at each other—by Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Corfu; and by Knesset members. Our correspondent Dan Eshel was there.

[Begin recording] [Eshel] The prime minister praised the relations of deep friendship between Israel and the United States, which is prepared to assist us in promoting peace between us and our neighbors.

[Shamir] We are prepared to cooperate with the United States in efforts to secure peace, knowing that the U.S. way of dealing with its partners and allies is not one of pressure but of mutual understanding and persuasion based on friendship.

[Eshel] The prime minister expressed regret over the fact that the nation is divided in its support for the peace process, but expressed the hope that the uniting elements are greater than the divisive ones.

As for his correspondence with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, the prime minister said:

[Shamir] I do not think we will need to resort to correspondence. I received a letter at the end of the Cabinet meeting today, and had to respond to it. After my return I will convene the Cabinet or the Inner Cabinet and we will decide this matter.

[Eshel] In answer to a question on possible concessions, the prime minister said that if two peoples must live side by side, they should both make concessions.

The prime minister was asked whether progress would be made by 1 April, the date set by the Americans. I am not bound by any agenda, Yitzhaq Shamir answered. The important point is that of substance and reaching an agreement on substance. The timetable is secondary in our order of priorities. [end recording]

Shamir Responds to U.S. Senators Letter

TA100601 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has rebuked American Jewish senators who were behind the letter by 30 senators to Secretary Shultz which had criticized Shamir's positions and advocated a formula of territory for peace. Shamir sent a letter to Senators Levin and Boschwitz saying that the criticism hurt most because it came from friends of Israel. He asked the senators whether they expected Israel to revoke the Camp David agreements.

Expresses 'Surprise,' 'Hurt'

TA101200 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has written to the 30 senators who criticized his refusal to support the land for peace formula. Shamir says the cases of Sinai and Judaea and Samaria and Gaza are different. Sinai was undisputed Egyptian territory, whereas the other territories have been occupied militarily and illegally by Jordan and Egypt, and their final status would have to be determined in peace negotiations.

In his letter Shamir also expresses surprise and hurt that the senators questioned his continuing commitment to UN Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in the 6-Day War.

Peres Comments on Shamir, Eban Trips to U.S.

TA140648 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Several hours before the prime minister took off for the United States, the vice prime minister met with Labor Party activists in Ramat Gan. The Likud, with its greater Israel concept, will cause the loss of the Jewish and democratic nature of Israel, Shim'on Peres said, expressing the fear that the rejection of the Shultz initiative will bring about a long political deadlock. Razi Barqay was in Ramat Gan yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Barqay] Before attacking the Likud for what he termed an appetite for territories and political blindness, Shim'on Peres sent the prime minister a message that was half greeting, half snide remark.

[Peres] I wish the prime minister Godspeed. Let him go safely and return safely, although I would like him to go with peace and return with peace.

[Barqay] Immediately after, as said, the vice prime minister leveled harsh criticism at the Likud leaders in reaction to the latter's charges that the Alignment is encouraging the violence in the territories. Soon we will be accused of having been the ones who went into Lebanon and who brought us sky-high inflation, Peres said. The Likud has no answers for the demographic burden and runs away from the important questions.

[Peres] Why deal with the Arabs? This is very complicated. Why deal with the Soviets, the Americans, the world at large, the Muslims? It is much easier to deal with Jews, to say this one is weak and feeble while the other is strong and proud, thus solving all problems! Is this our problem? Does the Likud think that it will solve any problems by attacking anybody?

[Barqay] The Likud and the Alignment are sparring. We asked the foreign minister whether the profile of the argument should not be lowered, at least for the duration of the prime minister's stay in the United States.

[Peres] Have we not been the victims of attacks? There is a national argument that is going on all the time. Did we not argue while Washington's representation, Mr Shultz, was here? Does the place make a difference? Our attacks are not over a personal matter, but over an issue of primary national importance, and the argument will naturally continue.

[Barqay] Why send Abba Eban to Washington at this time?

[Peres] First, everything depends on how you define it. What do you mean by sending Abba Eban? Is Abba Eban a letter? U.S. organizations are organizing a convention to mark the 40th anniversary of the state of Israel. Mr Shamir, Mr Rabin, Mr Eban, and I were invited to it. Neither Mr Rabin nor I could attend, so why can Mr Eban not respond to the invitation? What do you mean? Does the state of Israel belong to a single man? What do you mean by dispatching Eban?

[Barqay] We heard that you received a letter from Prime Minister Shamir.

[Peres] Yes. I sent a letter and received a letter.

[Barqay] Why not meet with him?

[Peres] We sat in the Cabinet meeting, and there were matters which needed to be written down and clarified. Incidentally, Mr Shamir did not always wish me success when I went abroad, but I do wish him success. Before I left, however, he used to tell me that I should say everywhere that I represent one of two views. This rule now applies to him.

[Barqay] The next campaign will take place when the prime minister returns from the United States. At that time it will not be the Shultz initiative, but rather early elections that will be on the agenda. [end recording]

'Massive' Tel Aviv Rally Supports Shamir Stand

TA140552 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Just before Shamir's departure last night, a massive rally was held in Tel Aviv in support of his position on the Shultz initiative. Organizers said that about 200,000 took part at the demonstration at Tel Aviv's Malkhe Yisra'el Square.

All speakers at the rally, which included Likud ministers and right-wing Knesset members, urged Shamir not to accept the Shultz initiative during his talks in Washington and to reject the territory-for-peace formula.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said that Shamir must explain to the Americans that the Israelis do not want to commit suicide.

Leaders, Media Comment Further on Peace Process

Shamir on Territories for Peace

TA111224 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Mar 88 pp A1, 2

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not rule out the principle of "territories for peace," but says that this is part of the negotiations on the permanent, not the interim, arrangements. According to Shamir, "somebody said I am opposed to peace in exchange for territories. Let us hold negotiations on the permanent document, and there it will be possible to discuss territories for peace. He added: "We are committed (according to the Camp David Accords) to negotiations on a permanent solution, as these are after all negotiations about territories and sovereignty."

Mr Shamir made these remarks in a talk at the beginning of the week.

Also in his letter to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on 17 January 1988—the letter that was one of the factors that influenced Shultz to try to consolidate a mediation initiative—Shamir wrote, among other things: "Husayn constantly distorts our position on this matter when he declares that we treat the territorial issue as non-negotiable."

At the same time, Mr Shamir is inclined to oppose the Shultz initiative, particularly due to its international conference opening. He refers to this as "Peres' diabolical idea." He believes that this will turn into a coercive conference, and is not satisfied with all the U.S. promises to date that this will not be the case, that the United States will neither agree to this nor allow it to happen.

On the Shultz initiative, Mr Shamir says: "In my opinion, nothing will come of the Shultz initiative, because it is very pretentious. The subject itself, the need to obtain everybody's agreement within such a short time, an administration that is almost ending its term—this constitutes a collection of all the possible obstacles."

The prime minister doubts King Husayn's ability to contribute anything to the peace process or to calming the territories. He has no status, Shamir says, adding that he understands Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is searching for a Palestinian leadership in the territories to talk to. Still, Mr Shamir notes, there are those within them who will yet undertake to lead their people.

Peres Against 1967 Borders

TA111224 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that on the issue of Jerusalem, nobody is even thinking about giving it up. Mr Peres stressed unequivocally that Israel will not return to the 1967 borders. Mr Peres defined the personal attacks on him as character assassination. Mr Peres spoke to high-school seniors in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Gil'ad Sher reports:

[Begin recording] [Sher] If a government delays the peace process, what do we need a government for? asked Mr Peres. If part of the government says no to the continuation of the peace process, I do not see any need to preserve such a government. I have never seen leaders who are deceiving their voters the way some of our leaders do. This they do, for example, regarding the transfer proposal:

[Peres] Will we use force to expel people who were born here and who live here? Do we think that the world will stand on the sidelines and applaude us? Who would give up his land of his own free will? Those who came up with this idea are actually counting on something which they do not say explicitly: that there will be war and we will then expel the Arabs.

[Sher] The problem is demographic and not geographic. The significant fact is what is taking place in the maternity wards. Minister Peres says he is ready to pass up annexing 650,000 Arabs living in Gaza to Israel. Regarding the issue of Jerusalem and the borders Peres said:

[Peres] My answer on the issue of Jerusalem is an unequivocal no, just as my answer is that we will not return to the 1967 borders and that we must insist on having a border we can defend. But why should we use this pretext for including all of Gaza and all the densely populated towns? Why should we do this? Why should we endanger the Jewish nature of Israel? [end recording]

Rabin on 'Reasonable Solution'

TA111005 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST (WEEKEND Supplement) in English 11 Mar 88 p 4

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin by editorial staff members "earlier this week": "Rabin's Plan"—words in italics as published]

[Text] Simplistic assessments such as "optimistic" or "pessimistic" don't interest Yitzhaq Rabin. The defence minister rarely seems more at ease than when engaging in an in-depth strategic analysis, even when he is discussing the pressing tactical issues of the moment.

Although he takes into account the potential reactions of world leaders—and those at home—personalities are not his prime concern. In the course of a two-hour interview, one hardly hears the name of a single leader.

The strategic questions dominate. They shunt aside the impact of the latest developments in the territories, the upsurge in PLO terrorism, and the way these may or may not influence attitudes within the Israeli political spectrum or among the general public.

Remarkably, despite the events of the past three months, the Palestinians as negotiating partners are not at the heart of Rabin's peace calculations. For him, the key to a settlement of the "bitter, authentic" Palestinian-Israeli conflict is still Jordan. It has been so for the past 20 years and the current unrest has not changed this view. For him, the status quo was never sacrosanct. He believes in a political solution that can only be brought about through diplomatic movement.

"I was in favour of the elements contained in the Shultz plan even before December 9, 1987. Obviously, I am all in favour of them today," he says.

On the eve of the prime minister's departure for Washington—a mission which Mr. Shamir believes he can negotiate without a definite response to the American initiative—Rabin takes issue with him.

Without referring directly to the prime minister's position, Rabin spells out emphatically the need for Israel to respond positively to Shultz.

"This is the sole existing possibility for reaching the negotiating table. I can't guarantee that we will actually get there—where, for instance, are the Soviets?—but I prefer that Israel should say yes. Let somebody else say no and ruin this chance for talks.

"I am ready to go with Jordan, with the [super] powers and the Palestinian representation, provided one can be found within the context of a Jordanian delegation.

"First of all let's get to the table. Negotiations have their own momentum. Should any other party say no, that would be a great pity, but even then Israel would have

gained from having said yes. I'm also interested in having the negotiations start now with the present administration in Washington, with people whom we know. We can't be sure how the next administration will turn out. But even that's secondary to the actual fact of starting negotiations.

"There is no guarantee how the talks will turn out, but without talks there is no prospect at all.

"On the ground there can be no overall solution. Military measures can calm the situation—not total calm, but calm. A solution, however, can only be achieved by a political process.

There is, he takes care to emphasize, absolutely no contradiction between the pressing need to get peace negotiations under way and the fact that violent protest is still continuing in the territories.

He cites two pertinent examples from the past where a similar situation prevailed. First, "the War of Attrition, 1,000 days of warfare at the Suez Canal after the Six Day War were brought to an end not by military means but by diplomatic action—the Rogers plan. Second, in the wake of the Yom Kippur War, Dr. Kissinger's shuttles between Israel and Egypt and then between Israel and Syria were conducted while the fighting was still going on."

There is thus, he says, no earthly reason why negotiations can't begin even while the violence has not been brought under control. "The only thing Israel must ensure is that the violence does not cause any significant shift in basic attitudes." And this, the defence minister stresses, it has palpably not done in his own case.

"I can understand the Palestinians' position, their aspiration to return to, say, Yafo, to live there as part of a Palestinian state. I can understand it, but there is no way on earth I can accept it. It would constitute national suicide."

Isn't there, however, a possibility of a Palestinian state alongside Israel? Does he not believe those Palestinians who espouse such a stance, not on ideological or philosophical grounds but out of necessity, out of the logic of accepting Israel's existence?

"That is simply not feasible," says Rabin, "because Yasir 'Arafat has to provide an answer to the refugees in Lebanon, in Syria, and in Jordan, as well as those living in the West Bank and Gaza. A state composed of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem would give him no such answer."

This, he continues, is why there must be a solution within the context of peace with Jordan, a peace that would include territorial compromise on the West Bank.

"I've never accepted the thesis that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is the crux of the problem. The heart of the matter has always been the refusal of Arab leaders to reconcile themselves—not merely recognize, but reconcile themselves—to Israel's existence as a sovereign Jewish state. Egypt did that and that is why we have peace.

"At the same time, without a reasonable solution to the Palestinian problem there can be no overall peace settlement."

He maps out what he would regard as a "reasonable solution"—not a solution as the PLO would have it in their detailed terms, but one that doesn't come "at the expense of Israel's fundamental interests."

"This will have to include a single state to the east of Israel that will have to absorb most of the Palestinians. This territory should make it possible to settle all the Palestinian refugees from the refugee camps in a state which has a Palestinian majority.

"Let's break it down numerically. There are now 1.4 million living in Jordan; 800,000-900,000 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem; 600,000 in Gaza; 720,000 in Israel. Altogether that is about three-and-a-half million Paletinians, the bulk of whom are here in Israel, in Jordan, and in the territories.

"Now let us look at a possible solution for the Palestinians in the context of a peace agreement, an agreement which would be constructed on the following basic principles:

"An expanded greater Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The Jordan River as our security boundary. On the West Bank, border changes from the 1967 lines (changes, that is, not merely modifications but changes, some of them significant), with the bulk of Gaza included in Jordan.

"Of the million-and-a-half Palestinians presently under Israel (apart from the Israeli Arabs), I envisage that a million would fall under Jordan. That would leave Jordan with 2.2-2.5 million Palestinians, and Israel with an additional half million over and above the present 700,000.

"I'm also in favour of the Israeli settlements remaining in situ—even those included in the Jordanian-Palestinian territory, with the residents remaining Israeli citizens. The 500,000 additional Palestinians who would be within Israel would be offered the choice of becoming Israeli citizens or remaining Jordanians.

"Overall, however, there is only a possibility of settling the refugees, whether from Gaza or Lebanon, *east* of the river. There is no room in the West Bank or Gaza to settle them.

"This, for me, is a 'reasonable solution' to the Palestinian problem," concludes Rabin. "A single sovereign state with one capital, Amman, one army, and the expanses

east of the river for settling the refugees. If, in another 50 years, another regime other than the Hashemite were to rule there, that is none of my business."

Would Husayn buy such a proposition?

"Let me tell you something," the defence minister replies. "If we were offering *all* the territory back, he would jump at it right away, even without an international conference. Since, however, I have no intention of offering anything like that, I am ready for the international conference of the type proposed by Shultz.

Rabin makes it plain that it's not for him to engage in "electoral considerations" about whether the nation will go along with his plan ("everyone has their own reading of the national mood"). He is perfectly happy to devise a plan which he believes to be in the best overall national interests, and to stick with it.

"Ever since leaving the army in 1968, I've always said that the territories constitute our strategic depth in the event of war but the bulk of them serve as bargaining chips. Yig'al Allon said it even before that.

"But in the first 10 years after the Six Day War until 1977, when the Alignment *was* the central element of the government, the Labour Party was neutralized, inhibited from taking a clear-cut position in the argument between territorial compromise and functional compromise, which meant no annexation but also no foreign sovereignty west of the Jordan. I don't need to mention names about who was responsible for that.

"Prime ministers could have expressed themselves personally in favour of territorial compromise, but the Labour Party as a party, and consequently the government, could not adopt that formally as its position. Such lack of decision was primarily due to the internal dispute in Labour.

"I'm glad that in the 10 years since then, this has been resolved within Labour. But in those 10 years since 1977 Labour has no longer been the major party within the government.

"Along with my whole-hearted support for the principle of territorial compromise, it is essential that the Arabs and the Palestinians, the West, the entire international community, be made to understand that nothing will be achieved by violence. Our main objective is to restore calm to the territories, and to make it plain that the disturbances can in no way effect a substantive change in our position. I stress this: the civil violence in the territories will not achieve any substantive change in our position."

Rabin does concede, however, that the Palestinians have made gains from the unrest, mainly in terms of international public relations.

On this score he draws a stark distinction between "violence" in the territories ("I have not referred to these events as terrorism") and "classic PLO terror."

The PLO, he says, is deadly intent on getting back into the picture, but resorting to live actual weapons and to terrorism would cause them a setback.

"I would personally be most surprised if the Western world were to accept the kind of dastardly terror action such as Monday's bus hijacking in the Negev as an extension of what is perceived in some places as legitimate resistance to Israel. Especially given the sensitivity in the West to the question of hostage taking.

"But the PLO realizes that it has not achieved its objective—a political process according to its scenario or the removal of Israel from the territories. The fact that the only existing diplomatic process currently under way excludes the PLO is a great blow to it.

"If the diplomatic process according to the Shultz formula does in fact begin, then the PLO has no place in it. It cannot renouce terror and violence and accept 242 and 338 or the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the three terms laid out by Shultz.

Once again Rabin points to Jordan as holding the key. More than that, he says, it is the key. He draws support for his thesis from the fact that ("to the best of my knowledge") the version of the Shultz invitation to Syria makes no mention whatever of the Palestinian issue.

"The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is charged with the Palestinian issue in its dealing with Israel. It has nothing to do with Syria, nothing to do with Egypt."

Throughout the interview, the defence minister was in an extremely relaxed frame of mind. He seemed encouraged by the prospect of diplomatic movement and confident that the IDF has the capacity and the stamina to outlast the residents in the territories, so as eventually to be able to stamp out the violence—not necessarily restoring absolute calm but certainly calming things down.

He does not foresee a major deleterious impact on the army, but neither does he minimize the impact.

"Any war leaves its mark, its wounds, its scars. We've not been geared to this kind of duty in the IDF. The army has been geared to meeting on the one hand an overall military threat, and on the other, terrorism in all its manifestations.

"Here, they have had to come to terms with combat at the closest possible quarters, come face to face with hatred. If you were to quiz the soldiers, the overwhelming majority would prefer to shoot from a distance of 50 meters rather than get involved in beating.

"At that distance you can ignore a man's face, his eyes...It's certainly not an easy experience. But I believe that by and large, the soldiers know why they are doing it. But to say that they like doing it...

"But let's not forget—and when I say this I don't wish in any way to besmirch the generation of 1948, to which I myself belong—there were far more aberrations, deviations then, than we have had to confront today."

Palestinians Oppose U.S. Plan

TA072021 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Mar 88 p 3

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Shultz' plan is destined to fail because it does not take the Palestinian factor into consideration. These remarks were made yesterday by Palestinian figures in the territories. Central figures expressed interest in Shultz' letter published yesterday by YEDI'OT AHARONOT, but on the whole Palestinians were decidedly opposed to the plan.

Sa'id Kan'an, a PLO supporter from Nabulus, said yesterday that Shultz' proposed steps stand no chance if they do not include Palestinian self-determination and if they exclude the PLO.

Ziyad Abu Zayyad from East Jerusalem made it clear that "without taking the Palestinian people into consideration in negotiations, there will be no way out from the mire."

Dr Hatim Abu Ghazalah from Nabulus stressed that any future negotiations group must include PLO-approved representatives of the territories.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj will leave next Friday for Amman where he will consult with Jordanian Administration heads.

Key to Solution in U.S. Hands

TA081706 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 6 Mar 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Address Palestinian National Rights First"]

[Text] Before U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ended the first round in his Middle East shuttle diplomacy, he announced that his plans had not been welcomed by any of those involved in the conflict. He decided to discuss his mission with his superior, President Reagan, before embarking on further efforts to bring the region's warring parties together at the negotiating table.

Reagan gave Shultz the green light to proceed with his shuttle diplomacy. As a result, the U.S. secretary of state is back in the Middle East reportedly carrying with him fresh ideas based on his conclusions from the meetings held with heads of state in the region. His return also indicates a new seriousness on behalf of the U.S. to find a settlement to the 40-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict after many years of neglect. Several states and individuals have criticized the U.S. for showing lack of interest in the Middle East crisis.

This, of course, is a welcome step. U.S. concern for the future of this region gives a necessary push to the dynamics of the peace process. This is particularly true because all the region's states, and the PLO to a certain extent, feel the key to a solution lies in U.S. hands.

The Arabs believe that the U.S. has the power to pressure Israel into making the necessary concessions in order to make a settlement possible. They believe that Israel will have no choice but to concede to U.S. demands since it is totally dependent on everything American, from arms to keeping the Israeli economy afloat. The Arabs argue that Israel is the belligerent party in this conflict and its obstinacy concerning withdrawal from the occupied territories is the obstacle in the path of efforts towards peace.

For this reason, the Arabs place all their money on the U.S. card, entrusting the superpower with the task of finding a settlement satisfactory to all parties. Unfortunately, the U.S. is still far from acknowledging the Arabs' great desire and willingness for an honorable settlement and, rather than putting pressure on Israel, is asking the Arabs to make the concessions, as if they had not already made more than enough. The Arab states, and the PLO, have bent over backward in order to accommodate U.S. demands. Yet, the more concessions the Arabs have accepted to make, the more the U.S. and Israel have demanded, concluding that this is weakness on behalf of the Arabs.

The U.S. needs to realize that there exists a limit beyond which the Arabs will not go. There is a line none of the Arab states can cross. Palestinian national rights, such as the right to self-determination, are an essential element no one can tamper with. Without recognition of this right, any effort to achieve a settlement is doomed to failure, whether it comes from the U.S. or heaven itself.

The Palestinian people are ready to accept a peaceful settlement as long as guarantees are made to protect their inalienable national rights. These guarantees cannot come from the U.S. alone, regardless of how much faith the Arab states have in it, but must be made by the United Nations and its Security Council's five permanent members through an international conference which the Palestinians and the Arabs have been demanding for a long time.

Accommodating this Arab demand, for a change, could be a big step in the peace process. Yet to expect Shultz to come up with a miraculous solution through his shuttle

diplomacy without attempting to address Palestinian asperations is a hopeless dream. Unless national Palestinian rights are properly addressed, the situation will remain at square one.

Cabinet Meeting on Shamir Trip, Government Stand

Concludes With No Decision

TA131226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem is over. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports:

The prime minister made sure that each minister was given only 10 minutes to speak, and some 3 minutes ago the meeting ended. As expected, it ended without a resolution. The prime minister ended the meeting by calling for a vote to approve his visit to Washington. The ministers unanimously approved his trip to Washington tonight for meetings with the administration. When the ministers left the meeting, we asked the Likud's Hayim Corfu if it is proper for the prime minister to leave for Washington without being armed with the Israeli Government's united stand on the initiative.

[Begin recording] [Corfu] Well, this is not new. We knew this 8 months ago when the vice prime minister wanted to raise the international conference issue in the Inner Cabinet, and after 2 days of discussions, when the issue was to be voted on, he asked for the issue to be dropped because he knew that if he insisted on his proposal, it would be rejected by the Cabinet.

The same situation has continued since then. This is a national unity government, and this is the structure of the Inner Cabinet. There is no doubt, however, that in today's debate the prime minister heard all the doubts and remarks. I am sure the Alignment ministers believe, and one of them said it publicly, that he will return with a positive answer. This means that everybody understands it is important, especially concerning relations with the United States, for the prime minister to go ahead with his task. There are a lot of issues that must be discussed and clarified. I think it is a good opportunity to correct the facts for U.S. Jewry and the U.S. media.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you not think that what happened at today's meeting was simply a widening of the gap between the Likud and the Alignment?

[Corfu] No, I do not think that the gap was widened. As I said before: From the start the cabinet structure was created with the knowledge that issues that are not acceptable to both sides will not be decided on, but the prime minister said that he wants to do everything possible to try to implement the issues agreed upon and secure the greatest possible support. [end recording]

Alignment Protests Lack of Vote

TA131535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] In today's session the cabinet was briefed on security affairs, and unanimously approved Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's trip to the United States.

The Alignment ministers held a meeting at the end of the cabinet session, in which they decided to send a letter to the prime minister sharply protesting the fact that he had not put the Shultz initiative to a vote by the Inner Cabinet. They claim that by not doing so he created a situation whereby he does not represent the entire government.

In response to the Alignment ministers' letter, officials in the prime minister's office say that Prime Minister Shamir believes that even if a vote had been held, the Alignment would still have said that Shamir represents only half the government. Nevertheless, Yitzhaq Shamir represents the entire Israeli Government as well as the resolutions mentioned in the government's basic guidelines, including the clause stating that the government will take action to promote a peace process that conforms to the Camp David Accords, which are also binding on the Alignment. This is reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Shamir Letter to Peres on Inner Cabinet Vote

TA131637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Minister Shim'on Peres that he would bring the U.S. initiative to a vote in either the Inner Cabinet or the full cabinet upon his return from the United States. In a letter to Mr Peres, the prime minister wrote that his proposals would be confined to the government's basic guidelines and policies. He made no reference to the disagreements within the cabinet on the Shultz initiative, or to the fact that no decision had been made so far. The prime minister's letter assumed, however, that Mr Peres would agree that Shamir should present common grounds rather than the divisive factors.

Mr Shamir's letter came in response to one from Mr Peres, which spoke of the lack of a cabinet decision before the prime minister's trip to the United States. This was reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Sharon Urges Economic Independence From U.S.

TA090949 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Mar 88 p 2

[Report by Knesset reporter Dvorah Getzler)

[Text] Israel should set itself a five-year target to end its dependence on U.S. economic aid, Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon told the Knesset plenum yesterday.

Sharon assured the house, during a survey of his ministry's activities, that Israel could become independent of the $1.2 billion aid it receives annually from the U.S. if doing so were to become a central economic goal, to the exclusion of others such as improving infrastructure.

The comment clearly seemed linked to the controversy over Israel's reply to Secretary of State George Shultz's peace proposals.

Sharon's recipe for economic independence involves doubling exports, increasing productivity and restructuring industries.

Discussing the economic impact of the uprising in the territories, Sharon said those who supplied the areas with consumer goods were the ones who were hurting the most. His ministry was examining what needed to be done to help branches that were suffering.

Hungarian Interests Office Opens in Tel Aviv

TA140922 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Hungarian diplomat Yene Gyenis, who heads the Hungarian interests office in Israel, conferred with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning and conveyed a message from Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Varkonyi. This act marks the official opening of the Hungarian interests office in Tel Aviv, under the auspices of the Swedish ambassador, and of the Israeli interests office in Budapest, under the auspices of the Swiss Embassy.

The Hungarian diplomat told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that a full resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and Hungary depends on a solution to the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries and Palestinians. Israel's friends, the Hungarian diplomat said, are also concerned about the situation in the territories. Therefore, greater efforts should be made to find a comprehensive political solution, without violence, for the sake of Israel and its neighbors. According to the diplomat, such a solution can be found only through granting self-determination to the Palestinians.

'Disappointment' With EC Decision on Trade

TA100637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] The European Parliament in Strassbourg last night refused to ratify an agreement to expand economic and agricultural cooperation with Israel. The decision will cost the Israeli economy $50 million annually. The deputy director general of the Agriculture Ministry expressed disappointment with the EC's decision. He said that in a way it had deceived Israeli farmers, because the farmers were promised that the European Parliament's ratification was only a formality.

'All Targets Destroyed' in Lebanon Raids

TA121423 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Israeli Air Force jets attacked terrorist targets east of Sidon this afternoon. All our planes returned safely. The pilots reported having destroyed all the targets. The IDF spokesman said that the targets attacked were used as sites for planning terrorist attacks, and that terrorists left from them for attacks in Israel.

Security sources in Lebanon reported that four bases of Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah in the Al-Miyah wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Dulb camps east of Sidon were attacked. The number of casualties has not yet been released. According to reports from Sidon, the raid was carried out by four planes.

400 Druze Request Permits To Visit Syria

TA120952 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Over 400 Golan Heights Druze have submitted requests to the Ministry of the Interior for family visits in Syria. The requests are being checked, and our correspondent Yo'el Dar has learned that no further exit permits will be issued until the first group of 20 Druze currently in Syria return to their villages in 3 weeks' time.

Israeli authorities turned a blind eye to the gifts carried by the Druze who left for Syria at the beginning of this week. The amount of gifts weighed several tons and included food and clothing. The Druze also brought out the equivalent of tens of thousands of dollars in various currencies, mainly dinars, to help their relatives in poverty-stricken Syria.

Permits to Jordan Contingent on Tax Payments

TA140603 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] The Civil Administration has decided to make exit permits to Jordan for Palestinians contingent on their paying VAT tax debts. This is due to a 20-percent drop in VAT tax revenue from the territories since the beginning of the disturbances.

Sharon Sees Unrest Leading to Danger of War

TA101306 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Mar 88 pp 1, 13

[Report by Bina Barzel]

[Text] "The defense minister's failure to restore peace and order in the territories has made Israel lose its deterrence, thus bringing about the danger of war," Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon stated last night.

Speaking to the YEDI'OT AHARONOT reporter, Sharon lashed out against Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

"The defense minister's failure to restore peace in the territories has definitely reduced and eroded the deterrence Israel had instilled in the Arabs. This might lead to war. This is the consequence of the security failure," said Sharon.

"This is coupled with the irresponsible deeds of Peres who acted behind the government's back, managed to present a crumbling and divided Israel, and caused it indescribable damage."

"Nothing brings about war more than the loss of Israel's deterrent power. In 1966-1967 the Arabs felt that Israel was weakening, and that led to war."

Sharon called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to demand of the defense minister to restore calm in the territories immediately, and warned that "The fire is spreading among Israeli Arabs. They are rioting because they are affected by the weakness we have been demonstrating in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip."

More on Unrest, Related Events in Territories

IDF Denies Helicopter Incident

TA132047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The IDF argues that reports alleging that Arab inhabitants of the territories were thrown from a helicopter are untrue. The IDF spokesman issued the denial following a thorough investigation conducted by the army. He said that no Israeli aircraft had been involved in such an incident.

Deportation Appeal Rejected

TA130918 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The High Court of Justice today rejected the appeals by three inhabitants of the territories who have been ordered deported and canceled the interim injunction preventing their expulsion. Justice Me'ir Shamgar, president of the Supreme Court, announced that the reason for the decision will be given in a few days time. Five judges sat on the bench. Following the rejection of the appeals, the IDF can deport the three: Jamal Hindi and Nasir 'Abu of Janin, and Abdul 'Aziz 'Udda of Gaza.

Yeshiva Students Stoned

TA111315 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Arabs stoned yeshiva students near the Makhpelah Cave in Hebron, There were no casualties. According to the yeshiva students, IDF forces arrived at the site and the Arabs fled. The area is quiet now.

Areas Closed to Media 11 Mar

TA111525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Excerpt] IDF troops today closed off certain locations in the territories to the media to prevent coverage of Friday prayers in the mosques. Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, the mufti of Jerusalem, has issued a communique claiming that IDF troops barred Muslims from entering the mosques, in several cases even walking into mosques and confiscating loudspeakers.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in general today's prayers proceeded uneventfully. In Ramallah there was a post-prayer riot during which youngsters threw stones at IDF soldiers. Security forces dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets. [passage omitted]

6 Injured in Bayt Immar Clash

TA111844 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Six inhabitants of the village of Bayt Immar in the Hebron Hills were injured this afternoon in a violent clash with IDF troops who were attacked with a barrage of stones and firebombs. [passage omitted]

In Janin, a woman tried to stab an IDF soldier, but she was arrested on the spot. [passage omitted]

Punitive Measures in Qabatiyah

TA111906 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, has notified public leaders in the town of Qabatiyah in Samaria about a ban on any exports to Jordan from the area, and about other punitive measures, such as a ban on overseas visitors and so forth. These come in reaction to the murder of a local inhabitant over 2 weeks ago on suspicion that he collaborated with the Israeli authorities.

Our correspondent Victor Nahmias points out that this is the first time since the beginning of the uprising in the territories—now going into its 4th month—that such harsh measures have been taken against any town in the area. This will be particularly harsh for Qabatiyah because the economy of the area is based on 17 stone quarries that export construction stone and agricultural produce to Jordan. Our correspondent adds that these measures come in the framework of a recent Defense Ministry policy which stipulates a firm response to any attack by neighbors on collaborators or people suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

Gaza Riots After Friday Prayers

TA111909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] There were riots after Friday prayers in Gaza. IDF troops in armored personnel carriers fought off the rioters in the city's main streets. The rioters threw stones at IDF soldiers from the rooftops. IDF troops dispersed the rioters with tear gas, rubber bullets, and shots in the air.

Hand Grenade Thrown Near Hebron

TA120519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Soldiers near Hebron shot and and seriously wounded a Palestinian after he threw a grenade at an army patrol. There were no casualties. The incident occurred at the Bani Na'im junction.

Woman Wounded Near Tulkarm

TA121223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] A 50-year old woman from the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm was wounded by shots fired by a member of the prison service. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that after a prison service vehicle had been pelted with stones and some of its windshields shattered, one of the vehicle's passengers fired in order to extricate the vehicle from the riot scene.

IDF soldiers this afternoon dispersed several dozens of rioters on the Wadi al-Malih road, near Bethlehem. Earlier, several rioters who had attacked the Bethlehem police station, had been detained. The Bethlehem area is now calm.

Curfews remain in force in the villages of Bani Na'im near Hebron and in Biddu, near Ramallah. The locations of Qabatiyah and Silat al-Harthiyah remain under blockade.

More Arab Policemen Resign

TA121652 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Most Arab policemen in the Judaea District have quit the force, their resignations effective on Monday. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum says that there are some 300 Arab policemen in the district.

Serious discussions on how to dissuade the policemen from resigning are being held by the police top echelon. It seems that the resignations come in response to pamphlet no. 10 in the territories, in which policemen and Jordanian parliament members were called upon to resign their posts, and as a result of the murder of a policeman in Jericho this week. Bethlehem Major Ilyas Frayj told an AP reporter that all 50 policemen in Bethlehem and all those in Ramallah and Jericho have resigned.

The PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY in East Jerusalem reports that 68 policemen in Hebron have resigned as well.

Frayj Reacts to Resignations

TA130608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says he believes the resignation of Arab policemen will paralyze the civil courts system and lead to other resignations of Arabs working for Israeli authorities. Reporter Rodan interviewed Frayj.

[Begin Frayj recording] The Arab policemen in the West Bank—in the West Bank; I don't know about Gaza—have not been involved in any way against the uprising. They have not really done anything to harm the people in the uprising or in the demonstrations. They confined their duties to police day-to-day activities against criminal acts of thefts, of quarrels, of drugs, and such matters. But, they have not in any way participated with the soldiers or with the Israeli authorities against the people.

Now, they have been targeted to resign. Hundreds of them have submitted their resignation. A vacuum will be created that will paralyze the civil courts in the West Bank, and certainly if there is a quarrel, there would be no policemen to call. And, the resignation of the policemen would probably lead to further resignations from other departments, and I must say that the political climate in the West Bank is affected also by the aggressive and negative statements which come out from the Israeli Government leaders. [end recording]

Measures To Protect Police

TA130742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The defense establishment is taking various measures to guarantee the security of policemen and other workers in the territories against pressures to resign. Our police affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF will take tough and quick action against all attempts to harm anybody in the territories considered a collaborator with the authorities. A special force has been set up in the police regions in the territories, and it is on alert 24 hours a day.

It was reported this morning that the police are also prepared to deal with the wave of resignations among local policeman, and at the same time, efforts are being made to convince those policemen who have already announced their resignation not to leave the service.

Several Police Stations Closed

TA131653 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Several police stations in the territories will cease to exist in the near future. This pronouncement was made by the police top echelon following the recent wave of resignations. The police believe that the hundreds of Arab policemen who have resigned cannot be replaced. Our police affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar:

[Begin recording] Senior police officials were pessimistic this morning about their efforts to stop Arab policemen from resigning. Almost half of the 1,000 Arab policemen in the territories have given resignation notices so far, and some of them have already taken the step.

A senior police source said today that Israel's interests would not be damaged by the resignations. The fact that the investigation of rapes, burglaries, holdups, and murders will not be carried out will damage only the local population of the territories. The man stressed that security activity will not be impaired, since Arab policemen have never dealt with security matters. In a conference of senior police ranks it was estimated that a large part of police activities in the territories would be reduced and that stations would stop responding to calls. [passage omitted]

A special public relations effort was carried out today in the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza District Police Headquarters. A hike in pay will do no good when lives are threatened, the police commissioner said. [passage omitted]

We have been informed that the main problem is in the Judaea District, where more than 150 policemen have resigned. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Grenade Thrown Near Qiryat Arba'

TA131041 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Mar 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Tzvi Zinger, Roni Shaqed, Yitzhaq Ravyihya and Hayim Broida]

[Excerpts] Riots in Hebron took place until late at night last night as well, and tension in the town between the Arab residents and the settlers is defined as "very dangerous" and "on the brink of disaster" by the security forces.

At midnight IDF forces were still trying to disperse Arab youths who erected roadblocks and hurled stones to defend themselves against the settlers, as they claimed. Settlers in Hebron who belong to the committee for safety on the roads, which is close to KAKH, said last night that they acted against Arab houses from which stones have been thrown and violent acts carried out in recent days.

The IDF forces fired numerous shots in the air in order to disperse the demonstrators.

The IDF sent a large force into the town, and Brigadier General Gabi Ofir, the commander of the IDF forces in Judaea and Samaria, who was in Hebron last night, spoke with the settlers and tried to calm them down. He personally supervised the dispersal of the night's riots.

Residents of Qiryat Arba' yesterday intended to distribute leaflets to the Arabs. "We are headed for peace," it was stated in the leaflet, which began with greetings and concluded with a grave warning to the Arabs: "If you do not keep quiet, you will have no quiet." The leaflet was written in Arabic, but it was finally decided not to distribute it so as not to inflame moods.

On Friday evening an Arab youth threw a hand grenade toward IDF forces near Qiryat Arba'. The soldiers opened fire toward the youth and wounded him. The grenade did not explode. [passage omitted]

Leaflet No 10 on behalf of the "Unified National Command of the Uprising," which was disseminated in the territories yesterday, [as published] called for a general strike on Tuesday and Wednesday. The strike will be held under the slogan: "There is no alternative to a PLO-led independent Palestinian state." Tomorrow was declared "The day of Palestinian solidarity with the detainees and casualties of the uprising," [previous word in Arabic] and on 21 March the population in the territories was asked to mark the "Day of the Al-Karamah battle" with a general strike, demonstrations, and other angry reactions. [passage omitted]

Hebron School Official Detained

TA131134 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Dr Nabil Jabir, the head of the board of trustees of Hebron University was placed under a 6-month administrative detention. The reasons for his detention will be publicized at a later stage.

Judaea District policemen who have lately submitted letters of resignation for fear of being harmed due to their job began to act upon their resignation. It was reported from the Ramallah police that all 40 policemen at the station left their workplace today.

Death Prompts Biddu Riot

TA131202 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Violence erupted again this morning in the territories. This time the focus was the Ramallah area, north, and northwest of Jerusalem. On this, back to Steve Rodan:

[Begin recording] So far the violence appeared concentrated in the Ramallah area. Military sources say it started this morning when three firebombs were hurled at an Israeli truck near Bi'r Zayt. The bombs caused no injuries or damage. Several hours later, another firebomb was thrown at an Israeli bus near Pesagot, the Jewish settlement outside Ramallah. The firebomb entered the bus, the bomb burst into flames, but there were no injuries.

In the nearby village of Biddu, military and local sources report violent demonstrations. This, after word spread that a 22-year-old Biddu resident died of his wounds sustained during a violent demonstration in that village on March 7th. Ibrahim 'Ali Sulayman was shot in the head, apparently by army fire. There are also reports of Christian worshippers demonstrating outside Ramallah churches, a protest that takes place nearly every Sunday. Overnight, another firebomb was thrown at a border police patrol in the Balatah refugee camp outside Nabulus. No injuries or damage was reported.

Official sources say most Palestinians arrived to their jobs in Israel. The exceptions were laborers from Janin and Jericho. In addition, despite the pressure upon them, most of the Civil Administration employees arrived to work this morning.

In the Gaza Strip, the army raided several refugee camps, including Al-Shati', Al-Burayj, and Khan Yunus; this following a curfew on the camps. Military sources say many residents were arrested on suspicion of participating in the recent riots against security forces. This morning the curfews were lifted. [end recording]

IDF Turns School Into Base

TA131331 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The IDF has seized a school building in Halhul and turned it into a military base. An IDF force has been stationed at the location.

Our correspondent notes that all Judaea and Samaria schools are closed down.

Spokesman Denies 'Secret' Nisim-Sharon Deal

TA072055 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 88 p 8

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Text] Finance Ministry spokesman Yitzhaq Feinberg yesterday denied a report published in THE JERUSALEM POST on Friday alleging that Finance Minister Moshe Nisim and Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon had struck a secret deal by virtue of which 10 million NIS would be earmarked for the development of settlements in the territories. These funds would have come from resources outside the budget framework.

According to the Treasury spokesman, the sum constitutes the budget for infrastructure in development areas. There was never any mention at all of settlements, only of the infrastructure for industrial development in all the development areas in the country which require that allocation for objective reasons.

The spokesman noted that in view of the growing demand for industrial buildings in various development towns, including places that no longer have any lots to be used for industry, the two ministers agreed to allocate an additional 10 million shekels for the development of infrastructure this year.

Feinberg emphasized that there was nothing secret about this and that all the activity was carried out in accordance with the rules.

Milo Warns of Israeli Arab 'Radicalization'

TA061103 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Mar 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The fact that the government has been turning a blind eye to processes that have recently been evolving in the Israeli Arab sector is a cause for concern among military bodies.

They claim that the current situation in that sector, bred by events in the territories, requires immediate countermeasures to mute the growing radicalization and stem the potential spread of violence to the Jewish sector as well.

They maintain that we are sitting on a powder keg, blissfully ignoring the fuse which is burning and getting shorter. "Once the dynamite explodes, and this is bound to happen unless we prevent it, everyone will again claim that we were taken by surprise."

Deputy Minister Roni Milo is in charge of handling the Israeli Arab sector. He uses the services of the office of the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, which is headed by reserve Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a. The two have been following the radicalization among Israeli Arabs and have warned the prime minister and his colleagues about it several times. They have even suggested working out immediate practical measures, but so far neither the Cabinet plenum nor the Inner Cabinet have adopted their recommendations.

According to Milo, one of the obstacles to implementing his proposed plan is the differences of opinion between the Alignment and the Likud. Thus, the plan calls for a counterbalancing of the Committee of Arab Local Councils. The Alignment objects to this. Milo claims that the committee constitutes a force for Arab radicalization under the orchestration of RAKAH.

Gilbo'a contends that "We are currently witnessing the dangerous process of the merger between nationalist sentiments and the feeling of social-civilian discrimination." The ties between the Israeli Arabs and the Arabs of the territories are growing stronger, and the former are taking practical measures to support what they call "the heroic uprising."

Military sources who addressed the issue over the weekend pointed to the absence of any serious thinking about the matter within the IDF and defense establishment, lamenting the fact that the implication of the process that has developed over the past 3 months has been overlooked. They claim that this is particularly serious because these processes are merely an extension and exacerbation of an ongoing process among Israeli Arabs that has long been ignored.

"Until recently, there were mainly rhetorical manifestations of the process among the Israeli Arabs, but now it is assuming an active practical form. We must be prepared for the possibility that this activism might spread and be expressed in violence. Perhaps the events in Wadi 'Ara and Umm al-Fahm are the first signs of a very dangerous process."

King Husayn Leaves for Cairo on 'Brief Visit'

JN111547 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 mar 88

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn left the homeland for Cairo this afternoon on a brief visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the visit he will hold talks with his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak dealing with urgent Arab issues, particularly developments in the Middle East in light of the kinfolk's uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The talks will also deal with bilateral relations.

His majesty was seen off at Amman airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, and Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister.

His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister; Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister. Also leaving on his majesty's plane was Ihab Wahbah, Egypt's ambassador in Amman.

Returns From Cairo

JN120844 Amman Domestic service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn last night returned to the homeland following a short working visit to Egypt during which he held talks with his brother, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, on bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries and subjects of common interest, particularly the deelopments in the region in light of the kinfolk's uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The two leaders exchanged views on the U.S. move in the Middle East and the recent tour in the region by the U.S. secretary of state. The two leaders also discussed the serious deterioration in the region due to Iran's escalation in the war of cities with Iraq. They affirmed their adherence to the necessity of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the participation of the five permenant members in the Security Council and all parties concerned, including the PLO, as the only successful way to achieve just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region based on the resolutions of the Amman summit, the summit of reconciliation and accord. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husdayn described the current Arab stand as passing through stages of contacts, consultations, and coordination among the Arab leaders who are assuming their responsibilities toward the Arab people and future generations. His majesty expressed his hope that his visits, meetings, and consultations with Arab leaders will help the Arab stand, enabling it to confront challenges and legitimate needs. His majesty hoped God would bless the Arab leaders in performing their duties toward the Arab people in the great homeland.

Anwsering questions by journalists before his departure from Cairo to the homeland last night, His Majesty King Husayn said he had invited Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to visit Jordan to discuss all matters and developments in the Arab arena.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said he and His Majesty King Husayn are consulting and doing their best to draw the Palestine question to safe shores and that he and his majesty are optimistic despite all remarks by Israeli officials, whether they help achieve a solution or not.

In response to a question on whether there is definite information that the Israeli prime minister has rejected the U.S. peace initiative, the president said: Shamir can stand against world, U.S., European, and Arab public opinion, but this will not lead to a just settlement and lasting and comprehensive peace, which is a very important matter to the region and the world.

Al-Rifa'i Summons PLO Envoy on Statement

JN131738 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Amman—A responsible source has stated the following: The competent Jordanian authorities have obtained the text of Statement No 10 which was distributed in some areas of the occupied West Bank on 10 March 1988. One of the clauses of this statement calls on the West Bank representatives to resign from the House of Representatives, thereby prejudicing the unity of the sons of the one Arab people in both banks.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i summoned Brother 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, member of the PLO Executive Committee and director of the PLO office in Amman, last night, 12 March, and informed him of the aforementioned statement. He pointed out to him the gravity entailed by such talk as well as its implications and prejudice toward the common destiny and struggle of the sons of the Arab people on both banks of the Jordan. He also pointed out to him the dangers of trying to tamper with the brave uprising and turning it away from the enemy and using it against brothers and comrades on the path of struggle.

The prime minister noted that Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn trusts the patriotism of the sons of our Palestinian Arab people of all factions. It believes they are capable of facing such suspect calls with the attitude they deserve. Such calls only serve the enemy.

Brother 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya was surprised that the statement carried such a clause. He contacted the prime minister once again at midnight, denying in the name of the PLO leadership the issuance of such a clause.

At noon today, 13 March, 'Abd al-Razza al-Yahya conveyed an urgent memo to the prime minister containing the true text of Statement No 10 which was issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising. He obtained it directly from Jerusalem via facsimile. The statement does not contain the clauses prejudicing the national unity of the one Arab people.

This explanation affirms that need for all concerned to remain alert to any attempts to turn the brave uprising away from its noble objectives.

Al-Khasawinah Regrets U.S. Decision on PLO

JN121253 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan today expressed regret over the U.S.decision to close the PLO mission to the United Nations. Jordan's information minister, Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, described the decision as a blow to Arab-American relations. In a statement to our radio, the minister said: We deeply regret this decision. We borrow U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' comment on this matter. Shultz said this decision is a stupid one.

Al-Khasawinah added that the U.S. decision has bypassed international charters and norms, particularly since the United Nations has been linked with the United States by a special agreement since 1947. The agreement calls on the U.S. Government not to interfere in the kinds of missions and representatives accredited to the United Nations. Al-Khasawinah added that the U.S. behavior is unjustified in part and parcel, particularly since the PLO office in New York did not do anything to justify this measure.

The U.S. representative sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, informing him of the U.S. determination to proceed with its decision to close the PLO office regardless of any legal commitment to the international organization. The U.S. representative added that if the PLO does not abide by the U.S. decision, the U.S. attorney general will be asked to adopt what he called necessary legal measures to close the PLO mission before 21 March.

Shultz Proposals Amended To Include PLO

JN111914 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman carried within the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program]

[Excerpt] Informed sources said in Amman today that to enable the PLO to participate in the peace process, Jordan has been able to amend the U.S. proposals which were brought to the region recently by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The change was effected with regard to the phrase "the states concerned in the Arab-Israeli dispute." The word "states" was replaced with the word "parties." The change was also effected wherever this phrase is mentioned in the proposal.

This change was a result of Amman's conviction in the need to include the PLO in any peace talks in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The same circles add that during their talks with Shultz in Amman and London, the Jordanian officials made it clear that the parties concerned should include the PLO. Therefore, Jordan wants to coordinate with the PLO leadership in its capacity as an Arab side concerned with the peace process. This is within Jordan's endeavors aimed at closing Arab views and standpoints with the aim of reaching a unified Arab stand on the U.S. proposals.

Amman has extended an invitation to 'Arafat to visit Jordan. The visit is expected to take place this month. [passage omitted]

Committee Meets on Support for 'Uprising'

JN121556 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Amman, 12 Mar (PETRA)—An official spokesman for the General Secretariat of the Jordanian-Palestinian committee has stated the following:

The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for bolstering the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied homeland held its 37th meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, 9-10 March. The committee reviewed all development needs required by the process of handling the current situation in the occupied territories and the program of priorities related to this situation in light of the blessed uprising and the pressures which are being exerted on the national sectors' resources. The committee also discussed in detail the financial situation of the support fund. After this, the joint committee adopted the necessary decisions regarding appropriations for the social and economic development sectors, including the social care, health, educational, labor, and Islamic endowment sectors.

Taking into consideration the present and emergency allocations for these sectors, the joint committee has allocated $32 million, provided these allocations have not exceeded the available financial resources of the support fund, which were confined to fraternal Saudi Arabia's $19 million contribution to the committee's fund.

The Jordanian and Palestinian sides to the joint committee expressed their thanks and appreciation to the fraternal Saudi Government for continuing its support

which greatly contributes to carrying out the projects of the support fund. The joint committee also hopes that the other Arab states, those which contribute and those which do not contribute to the support fund, will manage to support the resources of the support fund to enable the joint committee to fulfill its commitment to carrying out the support fund's projects.

Kidnappers To Release Higgins; No Date Set
TA111810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] The kidnappers of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins have said they will release him, but did not say when. This is reported by the Beirut weekly AL-SHIRA'.

Quoting sources in southern Lebanon, the report stated that Higgins had been kidnapped by a group connected with Fatah.

Birri Suggests 'Severing' U.S. Relations
NC141515 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, has suggested severing relations with the U.S. Administration and closing all Arab and Islamic embassies in the U.S. capital until the PLO's UN office is reopened.

Fadlallah Attacks Motives Behind U.S. Policy
NC140704 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said: We do not trust U.S. policy nor the U.S. representatives, because the United States will assume the status of a mediator, then a judge, and finally a ruler. It wants to get back into Lebanon through the window after being driven out the door by the Mujahidin. America wants Lebanon to survive, but only on its own terms to safeguard U.S. and Israeli interests. It wants to bring in a Lebanese president who will establish peace with Israel.

Fadlallah made these remarks at a ceremony held by Hizballah yesterday to commemorate the third anniversary of the Bi'r al-'Abd bomb explosion.

Syrian Authorities Arrest PFLP's Salah Salah
NC112114 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] The George Habash-led PFLP announced in Beirut today that the Syrian authorities have arrested Salah Salah, member of the PFLP Political Bureau and the Front's official in charge of Lebanon. The arrest occurred on the Lebanese-Syrian border last Tuesday.

The PFLP said Salah is also chairman of the National Action Committee, which includes the various Palestinian factions in Lebanon. He was on his way from Beirut to Damascus when he was arrested at Judaydat Yabus on the Syrian border. He was carrying a Syrian crossing permit at the time.

A PFLP spokesman said that Habash, who resides in Damascus, will contact the Syrian authorities to secure Salah's release. He emphasized that the incident can only be an error and that it will not undermine the PFLP's alliance with Syria.

Al-Jumayyil, Soviet Ambassador Discuss Issues
NC141236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Today President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil held talks with Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha on the situation in Lebanon and the region.

The Soviet ambassador stated afterwards that the meeting was held within the framework of periodic contacts and the exchange of views on current local and regional issues. He said he does not know whether the Lebanese issue will be raised at the forthcoming summit between the two superpowers.

Kolotusha said that the idea of holding an international conference is gaining momentum and is being supported by an increasing number of states. We hope the UN will reach an unanimous decision on this issue, he said.

Armenian Residents Protest Clash in Azerbaijan
LD111540 Kuwait KUNA in English 1518 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Beirut, March 11 (KUNA)—Armenians residing in the eastern sector of the Lebanese capital have closed their areas in protest against Moscow's handling of the recent situation in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan.

Three Armenian parties urged Lebanese Armenian shopkeepers to close their businesses to show their anger and unhappiness over bloody clashes between the Soviet Army and Soviet Armenians in Azerbaijan two weeks ago.

The incident reportedly left many dead and injured people after the Soviet Army was forced to interfere to restore order.

The Lebanese Armenian parties have called for a rally at Burjhmoud municipality square where their leaders will deliver speeches on the occasion.

Stage Protest Strike
NC121220 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Armenian commercial and cultural establishments all over Lebanon staged a strike today to protest against the events in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan.

Iran Denies Plan To Dissolve Ulema Assembly

LD141549 Tehran IRNA in English 1514 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Beirut, March 14, IRNA—Iran's embassy here today refuted rumours that the Islamic Republic has decided to dissolve the Assembly of the Muslim Ulema in Lebanon.

Local and foreign news agencies had earlier published such a report, quoting the Iranian foreign minister.

Shams al-Din Urges Caution Against Infighting

NC120622 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has called on the Amal Movement and Hizballah to resort to logic and cautioned them against continuing their infighting during the current grave situation.

Shams al-Din urged the Amal Movement and Hizballah to maintain their unity, as this represents their principal cause.

Shams al-Din spelled out the following four principles to which the Amal Movement and Hizballah should abide:

1. To reject the recent reform proposals and be ready to discuss other proposals;

2. To support the resistance and UN force;

3. To reject kidnappings; and,

4. To support the uprising in the occupied territories.

Israeli Aircraft Attack Areas East of Sidon

PFLP, Fatah Targeted

NC121549 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1520 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Excerpts] This afternoon, 5 days after the Negev operation, Israel carried out an air raid on Palestinian positions east of Sidon. It was the second such attack this year. According to PLO sources, preliminary reports say that eight persons were injured.

The raid was conducted by squadron of six warplanes, some of which provided cover, at 1425 this afternoon. The targets were positions held by the PFLP and the PFLP-GC on the hills of Al-Ashrafiyah and Sirub in the vicinity of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps in the south. Al-Miyah wa Miyah camp and the Darb al-Sim, Al-Qurayyah, and 'Ayn al-Dulb areas were also attacked 10 minutes later.

The targets were positions held by the Fatah Revolutionary Council and Yasir 'Arafat's supporters.

As a result of the Israeli raids, high-tension cables that supply the south with electricity were disrupted. The Israeli warplanes continued to circle over Sidon and the camps after the raids, drawing antiaircraft fire. According to the latest information, an Israeli reconnaissance plane is now flying over the area east of Sidon. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian organizations have warned the inhabitants of the areas targeted by the raid to be wary of objects dropped by the Israeli planes.

Strike Kills 1, Injures 11

NC121700 Paris AFP in English 1640 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Sidon, Lebanon, March 12 (AFP)—Israeli jets mounted a rocket attack on Palestinian bases in south Lebanon, killing at least one and injuring 11, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said.

The raid was aimed against three positions of the PLO's mainstream Fatah group east of this port city, some 43 kilometres (26 miles) south of Beirut, a PLO spokesman said. [passage omitted]

Abu Yasir, a Fatah military chief, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that two of the injured Saturday were Palestinian relief workers. An earlier casualty toll had said eight people were wounded in the air raid. Two fighter-bombers fired 12 rockets at the bases as another four jets provided cover. Palestinian anti-aircraft posts opened fire at the warplanes, according to a correspondent at the scene.

Columns of black smoke rose over the positions minutes after the raid. The bases are located near the Al-Miyah wa Miyah refugee camp and at Jinsnaya and Baysur in the Sidon region, which is the home to 100,000 Palestinians. At least seven buildings were destroyed in the rocket barrage, the correspondent said.

It was the first Israeli air strike against Palestinian positions in South Lebanon since January 3, when 20 people were killed and 10 others injured.

11 Fedayeen 'Still Missing'

NC130635 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes uesterday carried out two air strikes against the Al-Ashrafiyah area in the Al-Miyah wa Miyah Camp at 1430 and against 'Ayn al-Dulb and Al-Qurayyah east of Sidon at 1440.

Columns of black smoke rose over the targeted positions, while ambulances rushed to the scene. According to eyewitness accounts, the Israeli fighters strafed 5 Fatah positions leaving at least 10 people wounded. Rescue teams conducted searches for the wounded.

According to the witnesses, 4 out of the 10 fedayeen rescued from under the debris were seriously wounded.

The witnesses added that the rescue teams were seen removing rubble in a search for at least 11 fighters who were still missing under the debris of the demolished buildings.

Sidon, Nearby Areas on 'Alert'

NC131320 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] There is tension and caution in Palestinian camps east of Sidon, particularly in Al-Miyah wa Miyah and in the vicinity of 'Ayn al-Dulb, Al-Qurayyah, and Jinsnaya, where the bases of the pro-'Arafat Fatah movement were the target of an Israeli raid yesterday afternoon.

According to security sources, a state of alert has been called. Camouflaged antiaircraft guns can be seen on the camps' streets and the overlooking hills, a precaution against further Israeli strikes.

This morning, Israeli gunboats were seen cruising off the shores of Sidon. Not far from this region, tension is also reported in Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir, following clashes between the South Lebanese Army and extremist gunmen.

Helicopters Overfly Positions

NC131956 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1949 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Israeli helicopters tonight flew over Palestinian positions in Jisnaya, Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, and 'Ayn al-Huiwah. These areas were raided by Israeli warplanes yesterday.

The Palestinians immediately instituted a state of preparedness and alert as a precaution against another raid.

Israelis, Lahd Militia Storm Rabb al-Thalathin

NC131430 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Last night Israeli occupation forces and [Lahd's] militia surrounded the town of Rabb al-Thalathin in the security zone with a large number of soldiers and vehicles. They stormed the town this morning, rounded up the inhabitants, interrogated them at a school, and then arrested a number of women and girls.

This prompted the inhabitants to appeal to humanitarian organizations to intervene and put an end to these arbitrary methods practiced by the enemy soldiers.

2 Lebanese Forces Officers Killed in Juniyah

NC130737 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces Command Council—date not given]

[Text] On Saturday night, 12 March, two senior Lebanese Forces officers were martyred in Juniyah. The officers are Lieutenant George Shuwah and 1st Lt Ziyad Habshah.

The Lebanese Forces Command Council, while mourning the two officers, announced that the speech rally on scheduled for 13 March marking the first anniversary of the social welfare establishment in Kazinu Lubnan has been cancelled.

Afghanistan

Khalis Submits Resignation as Resistance Leader

LD140654 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR—Mawlawi Muhammad Yunis Khalis leader of "seven-parties alliance" of the Afghan resistance stationed in Pakistan resigned from the leadership of the alliance, reports international news media. He has said that he resigned due to health reasons.

The resignation of Yunis Khalis takes place at a time when reports are being published about the differences which have come about between the moderate leaders and fundamentalists of "seven-parties alliance". Muhammad Yunis Khalis submitted his resignation to the session of the supreme council of seven-parties alliance.

It is to be pointed out that Sebghatullah Mujaddedi, another leader of the "seven alliance" had given his resignation from the membership in the council and the leadership of his group "National Liberation of Afghanistan."

Geneva Talks Differences Cited

BK131256 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 13 Mar 88

[By Sami Zuibeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, March 13 (AFP)—Muhammad Yunis Khalis stepped down as leader of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance because of differences over the Geneva peace talks and not for health reasons, resistance sources said Sunday. Mr. Khalis, 69, resigned Saturday as leader of the alliance's supreme council citing health reasons. He was elected to the post in October.

A moderate rebel leader, who asked not to be named, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the alliance was split on whether to send a delegation to the current round of United Nations-sponsored Afghan peace talks in Geneva.

Mr. Khalis, along with Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyed of the pro-Saudi Ettehad-e Eslami group, opposed such a move arguing that the alliance had already rejected the Geneva process as a futile exercise in the absence of the two main parties to the conflict, the mujahidin and the Soviet Union, he said.

Mr. Sayyed, in a statement released Sunday, said his party was firmly opposed to sending any delegation to Geneva.

"Under no circumstances shall we agree to any direct or indirect dialogue with the Afghan Communist Party or Kabul regime representative," he said.

The Geneva talks are currently bogged down over the formation of an interim government in Kabul and whether the superpowers will be allowed to continue supplying aid to their respective allies after a peace accord is signed.

Moderates in the alliance favoured joining the talks in the hope of breaking the stalemate after recently receiving an invitation to do so, the moderate leader said without revealing if it had come from U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez. He said he expected a rebel team would go to Geneva shortly, adding that it would not have any contact with Kabul's delegation.

Mr. Khalis was concerned that Islamabad might sign an accord in Geneva if it provided safeguards for the return of the estimated three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and superpower assurances that a broad based coalition government would replace the current Kabul regime, sources within his faction of the Hezb-e Eslami group said.

Mr. Khalis wanted Afghan leader Najibullah and the Soviet Union's estimated 115,000 troops out at the same time, otherwise there could be no ceasefire in Afghanistan, the sources said, adding that he will remain head of his faction and was unlikely to reverse his decision to resign.

Analysts here said his departure was a heavy blow to the alliance.

Mr. Khalis led a mujahidin delegation to New York during the U.N. General Assembly debate on Afghanistan last year and obtained assurances from U.S. President Ronald Reagan of continued support.

Under his leadership the alliance agreed on the formation of a successor government in February but observers said that disputes over its composition persisted between moderate and Islamic fundamentalist groups.

Mr. Khalis had tried to keep the alliance together, observers said, adding that he had become dejected following last week's resignation of Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, leader of the moderate Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF). Mr. Mujadeddi quit the alliance Monday but reversed his decision Thursday.

Informed rebel sources said Saturday that Mr. Khalis had resigned because the moderates had gained by Mr. Mujadeddi's return and had received too many assurances from Pakistan on the signing of a peace accord in Geneva.

Mr. Mujadeddi, supported by Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani's National Islamic Front of Afghanistan and Muhammed Nabi Muhammadi's Afghan Revolutionary Movement, wanted former King Zahir Shah to head a future neutral government in Kabul. Their proposal has

been opposed tooth and nail by the other four leaders and most stubbornly by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction, observers said.

Resistance sources said Mr. Khalis' exit would highlight persistent rebel disunity and much would now depend on his as yet to be named successor. But "it is better to have disunity than to have a unity with no authority to decide," said one rebel leader commenting on the situation.

Hikmatyar To Head Alliance

BK141114 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, March 14 (AFP)—Rebel leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar has been appointed to replace Muhammad Yunis Khalis as head of the seven party Afghan resistance alliance, a spokesman for his faction of the Hezb-e Eslami said here Monday. Mr. Hikmatyar's appointment follows Saturday's resignation of Mr. Khalis who cited health reasons for his decision.

Resistance sources, however, said Mr. Khalis stood down because of differences between moderate and Islamic fundamentalist groups over the current round of United Nations-sponsored Afghan peace talks in Geneva.

The spokesman said Mr. Hikmatyar will be leaving for Geneva to present the mujahidin position on the formation of an interim government in Kabul as part of an overall settlement of the Afghanistan conflict. This issue has proved to be a major sticking point in the Geneva talks, observers said.

Mr. Hikmatyar was widely considered to head one of the strongest and best organised groups within the resistance alliance.

BAKHTAR on Resignation

LD140703 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

International mass media reports that Mawlawi Yunis Khalis, chairman of the so-called "supreme council of the seven-alliance" has resigned of the leadership of the council.

Yunis Khalis who had asked Sebghatullah Mujadeddi to take back his resignation from the "supreme council of the seven-alliance" and leadership of" National Liberation Front" himself has resigned from the leadership of the council. This was exactly which could be expected from the so-called "seven-alliance".

It was not accidental that Mujadeddi and Mawlawi Yunis Khalis presented their resignations one after another. It is a reflection of the widened differences, ambitions existing within the alliance".

Political observers and analysts are unanimous that opposition armed groups stationed in Pakistan have not been able so far to take a constructive decision to be accepted by the people of Afghanistan, refugees and even the moderate forces within the "seven-alliance".

The differences between the extremists, refugees and moderates included in the "alliance" were revealed ever-further after the release of the statements by the leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union on the speedy solution of the situation around Afghanistan in which the schedule for the return of the Soviet military contingents from Afghanistan to their country was determined.

The Geneva talks show that Pakistan and opposition groups stationed in that country which avoid a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan are deliberately not helping the process of Geneva talks live in a psychological crisis due to their internal sharp differences.

The delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan in the Geneva talks has shown initiatives, political goodwill, sincerity and honesty for a speedy solution of the situation around Afghanistan and agreed on the return of the Soviet military forces from Afghanistan in the nine months and thus finalised the fourth document of the Geneva accords.

On the contrary, the Pakistani authorities are resorting to unjustified and impracticable pretexts such as establishing a transitional government as a pre-requisite for signing the Geneva accords. In order to present a model of a so-called transitional government, the Pakistani authorities instructed the extremist groups in "seven-party alliance" to go on establishing a so-called transitional government. What was formed under the name of a transitional government was not only mocked by the refugees but also by moderate armed forces within the coalition. This gave rise to intensify opposition within the so-called coalition.

The developments of the situation showed that the efforts by Islamabad regime were not able to bring any fruition but to deepen differences.

Mujadeddi asserted that the structure of the "alliance government" has been set merely by seven persons. He had also added that the extremists under the pressure of Pakistan have not informed the refugees and the moderate groups of the decisions taken as well as they do not take into account the interests of the Afghan nation. Mujadeddi's assertions is indicative of another psychological crisis in which the so-called coalition is involved.

The resignation of Mawlawi Yunis Khalis, the so-called unity symbol of the "seven-parties alliance", from the so-called supreme council of coalition attests to the fact that differences among the opposition groups have reached to climax. They are, indeed, faced with a decisive political defeat and ignominy.

'Rift' Developing in Opposition

LD131439 Kuwait KUNA in English 1251 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, March 13 (KUNA)—The rift in the 7-party Afghan mujahidin alliance is expected to widen with the resignation of Mawlawi Muhammad Yunis Kalis, the alliance chairman, mujahidin sources said here Sunday.

They said that though Mawlawi Khalis tendered his resignation yesterday for health reasons, the real cause was the increasing policy differences amongst the alliance leaders.

It was the second resignation from the alliance high command in a span of one week. Earlier Professor Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, chief of the National Liberation Front, had resigned as a protest on the decision of the alliance to nominate Commander Ahmed Shah as head of an interim government in Kabul during Soviet troop withdrawal. However, Mujadeddi was pressurised by other colleagues in the alliance to withdraw his resignation which he did two days ago.

Informed Afghan sources in Islamabad said that the main reason for the resignation of Mawlawi Yunis Khalis was that he was opposed to sending a delegation of alliance to Geneva during the current proximity talks to negotiate with United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez on the formation of an interim government in Kabul.

These sources said that the efforts to prevail upon 69-year-old Mawlawi Khalis to take back his resignation would only succeed if the supreme council of the alliance categorically rejected the move to send a delegation to Geneva.

Broadly the four fundamentalist parties in the alliance were against approaching the United Nations mediator on the question of interim government. They contend that the best party to talk about on any matter on the Afghanistan problem is the Soviet Union.

The three moderate groups are reported to have made Ettehad-e Eslami chief Abdul Rasul Sayyaf like-minded on the question of sending a delegation to Geneva. [sentence as received]

Sayyaf himself has couple of days back returned from Tehran after holding consultations with the Iranian Foreign Ministry. His inclination in favour of the moderate group, though apparently a temporary one, has caused deep dissension in the alliance leadership.

Mujahidin sources said that if Mawlawi Khalis, who heads Hezb-e Eslami resistance group, stuck to his resignation then the alliance would elect either Commander Ahmed Shah or Gulbuddin Hikmatyar as the new alliance chief.

Hikmatyar, who heads his own group in the alliance, has the reputation of a hawk and an extreme fundamentalist.

Hikmatyar Views Soviet Withdrawal, Geneva Talks

PM111152 Brussels LE SOIR in French 4 Mar 88 p 1

[Interview with Hezb-e Eslami leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar by Abed Attar; date, place not given]

[Text] [Attar] At 39, you are chairman and theoretician of Hezb-e Eslami, the largest and most active of the seven Afghan resistance movements of the Islamic alliance. Together with the other six leaders, you are also a member of the new supreme council, which heads the provisional government formed by the mujahidin to replace Najibullah's pro-Soviet team. You have accused the United States of "conspiracy" and "treason", claiming that it is exerting pressure on Pakistan to sign a final agreement with Kabul in Geneva to start the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

[Hikmatyar] Gorbachev's initiative announcing the Soviet troops' withdrawal starting 15 May is viewed by the mujahidin as the outcome of an understanding with Washington. It envisages the maintenance in Kabul of a puppet Najibullah regime responsible for supervising the withdrawal following the signing of an accord between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Geneva under UN auspices. Indeed the Reagan administration is no longer stressing the need for a provisional mujahidin government. There is a lobby in the United States that would rather see a communist government than an Islamic government in Kabul.

[Attar] Islamabad apparently does not want to sign an agreement with Kabul.

[Hikmatyar] Pakistan's position has been consistent with ours hitherto. However, if it is forced to sign an accord with Kabul the center for our political activities could be transferred to Iran, which approves of our stance. Our government will be established somewhere in Afghanistan to continue the armed struggle.

[Attar] What about the refugees?

[Hikmatyar] They will remain in Pakistan as long as the Soviet troops occupy Afghanistan and until there is an Islamic government in Kabul.

[Attar] Could the mujahidin grant themselves the luxury of foregoing U.S. military aid?

[Hikmatyar] Since the Soviet invasion Red Army troops have become the chief source of our military equipment. As as long as they remain in Afghanistan we will be adequately supplied.

[Attar] Will the resistance be able to score points without Stinger missiles?

[Hikmatyar] Stingers? It is just a rumor. Who said we have Stingers? We have never said that we have received such missiles.

[Attar] According to the Soviet Union massacres could occur following its troops' withdrawal. What is your opinion?

[Hikmatyar] It is lies. If the Soviets leave Afghanistan there will be no bloodbath. We will be able to organize a democratic and honest general election

[Attar] Will the mujahidin government agree to the continued presence of Soviet advisers in Afghanistan in accordance with the 20-year friendship and cooperation treaty signed in December 1978 by the Taraki and Amin regime a year before the Soviet invasion?

[Hikmatyar] We say "no" to advisers and to the treaty signed by a regime in Moscow's pay. Nevertheless we want to maintain good relations with every country in the world, especially with Afghanistan's neighbors, on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Kabul Mujahidin Commanders Vow To Continue Jihad
BK131720 Hong Kong AFP in English 1712 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 13 (AFP)—Guerrilla commanders active in regions around Kabul vowed Sunday to continue fighting a jihad (holy war) until an Islamic government is established in Afghanistan.

Nineteen commanders told a news conference in this border city that they supported the principle of an interim mujahidin government in Kabul prior to a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The idea has been put forward by the Peshawar-based seven-party Afghan guerrilla alliance, to which the 19 commanders are affiliated.

The rebels said they opposed the return of former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah, saying his presence had been the root cause of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

They said Afghan refugees or guerrillas who support the return of the 73-year-old ex-king from exile in Rome were not in a majority.

The commanders added that mujahidin fighters were not dependent on U.S. aid as they had enough arms and ammunition seized from Soviet forces during eight years of combat.

Rebels Down Soviet Helicopters 29 Feb, 1 Mar
LD130751 Tehran IRNA in English 0749 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, March 13, IRNA—Afghan Muslim mujahidin downed two Soviet helicopters which were shelling Afghan mujahidin positions in Asadabad and Sara, Konarha Province, on February 29 and March 1, said reliable Afghan sources here Sunday.

Mujahidin also attacked a military watch post of the joint Afghan Government and Soviet forces near Herat on March 1, inflicting substantial damage on communist forces and seizing two tanks intact.

Meanwhile according to a statement by the Peshawar, Pakistan based Afghanistan Islamic Party Saturday four Soviet soldiers defected to mujahidin after escaping from their base in Baghlan Province. One other soldier was killed on the way in an encounter with occupying forces after killing three of them, it added. Another Soviet soldier, Mir Ahmedov from a base in Chah Ab region joined Afghan muslims on February 29, the statement added.

Pakistani Charge Summoned Over Accusations
LD121642 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1400 today, and the following point was made to him:

In continuation of their unfounded accusation, the Pakistani authorities clamed recently that on 2 March the Afghan artillery forces shelled a place 4 km northwest of the Arawali region and on 5 March fired artillery shells at the Ali Mangal region, Kurram Agency.

After investigation, the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan regarded this claim as unfounded and baseless. In resolutely rejecting this claim the Afghan authorities ask the Pakistani authorities to avoid such accusations, which inflame the situation along the border of the two countries.

Keshtmand Sends Condolences on Pham Hung Death
LD130616 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 12, BAKHTAR—Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan sent a message of condolence to Hanoi on the death of Pham Hung, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Vietnam.

Expressing deep sorrows on the occasion the message considers death of Pham Hung, not only a great loss for the people of Vietnam but for the whole peace-loving mankind.

Bangladesh

Parliament To Propose Islam as State Religion

BK131603 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] President Ershad has said Parliament will consider a bill in its coming session to provide religious identity to the nation by incorporating Islam as a state religion. The president was addressing a huge congregation of Muslim devotees who had assembled today at Sabsina in Ferozepur in connection with the annual Urs of Pir Saheb of Sabsina [celebration organized to observe the day of Muslim saint's demise]. The president said when the life of about 90 percent of the country's population is guided by Islam, then there is no justification why the religion of the vast majority of the people should not be accepted as the state religion. He said to emancipate the people of the country, we shall have to establish the tenets of Islam and the ideals of our beloved prophet in our day-to-day life.

President Ershad has announced the change of name of Bangladesh Red Cross Society to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society upholding the spirit of Islam. He said in all Muslim countries the organization is called Red Crescent Society and in line with that Bangladesh Red Cross Society will hence onward be named as Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

The Iraqi ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr (Zuhair Muhammad al-Omar), also addressed the congregation. He described President Hussain Mohammad Ershad as a bridge between Bangladesh and the Muslim Arab countries. Mr (Zuhair) said President Ershad is highly respected in all the Muslim world for his outstanding service to the cause of Islamic ummah [community] and dedication toward the cause of progress of the 100 million Muslims of Bangladesh. The Iraqi envoy lauded the leadership of President Ershad in handling natural calamities.

Foreign Minister Returns From U.S. Visit

BK131333 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury returned home Sunday after his visit to the United States. He told newsmen at the airport that he had fruitful talks with American leaders on bilateral and other issues. Mr Chowdhury said Bangladesh has been assured of continued American support and assistance to its development efforts.

The foreign minister during his visit had wide-ranging talks with the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, and other high officials of the State Department and the U.S. Administration. He also held talks with a number of congressional leaders including the chairman of the Congress subcommittee on South Asia. The foreign minister spoke of tremendous goodwill in both government and other American quarters for Bangladesh. They lauded the efforts of the Bangladesh Government to bring about improvement in the quality of life of the people and assured of American assistance in both bilateral and multilateral sectors.

The foreign minister said his talks with his American counterpart, Mr Shultz, was marked by appreciation of each other's point of view on different matters.

India

'Sophisticated' Soviet Submarine Joins Navy

BK141000 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] A sophisticated submarine, "INS [Indian Naval Ship] Sindhuraj", joined the Indian Navy this morning at the naval dockyard in Bombay. This is the third submarine of the (Sindhughosh) class acquired from the Soviet Union by the Indian Navy. The commander in chief of the Western Naval Command, Vice Admiral S. Jain, received the submarine which arrived from the USSR. The submarine can detect targets at extremely long range and carry the most modern guided torpedoes.

Soviet Deputy Premier Meets With Pant 11 Mar

BK120507 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] The first deputy prime minister and chairman of the Soviet Planning Commission, Mr Yuriy Maslyukov, and the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, have discussed areas of mutual interest in the field of defense production. Mr Maslyukov, who is leading a high-level Soviet delegation, called on Mr Pant in New Delhi yesterday.

Official Spokesman Denies Pakistani Press Report

BK100344 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi
0230 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday that the Pakistani Urdu paper, JANG, has incorrectly quoted the director general of police of Punjab, J.F. Ribeiro, as saying that there is no evidence for the Sikh extremists being trained in Pakistani camps. In response to queries from newsmen, the official spokesman said that Ribeiro denied saying anything of this sort.

Pakistani Troops Fire on Jammu, Kashmir Villages

BK130922 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English
1600 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, seven villages situated near the Line of Control in the Punch sector came under repeated unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops during the first week of this month. Replying to a calling

attention motion in the state legislative council in Jammu today, the state health minister, Mr (R.S. Shiv), said there was no report of any loss of life or property in the firing.

Gandhi Ready To Begin Dialogue on Punjab

BK111552 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said that the Center is prepared to initiate a dialogue with any party in Punjab provided it gives up violence and accepts the constitutional framework. He said the Center never hesitated to undertake a dialogue subject to the fulfillment of these two conditions. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing a public meeting at Satara in Maharashtra this evening. He said there are two sides in Punjab, one the extremists and the other the rest of the people. He said the rest of the people in the state cannot be separated on the basis of religion. [passage omitted]

5 Killed in Punjab 'Terrorist' Incidents 12 Mar

BK130654 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, five persons, including a woman and a terrorist, were killed in separate incidents last night. In Amritsar District two persons were shot dead and one injured in village Khaljian. In Ferozepur District, terrorists attacked a house in village Malanwala and shot dead one woman and seriously injured her husband. In Gurdaspur District, one person was gunned down by terrorists in village Khajoura.

In Faridkot District, one of the two terrorists who forcibly entered the house of a farmer was killed by the villagers who collected at the site when the farmer raised an alarm. The other terrorist, however, managed to escape.

1 Killed, 6 Injured in Andhra Pradesh Election

BK121511 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, one person was killed and six injured in violent incidents during the second phase of the panchayat [village council] elections today. At Battakamur village in Prakasham District, two groups hurled bombs at each other, leading to the death of one person. Police opened fire at several places at Karapa, Nellore, Srikakulam, and Kurnool to control violent mobs. Six persons were injured. The panchayati raj commissioner, Mr P.V.K. Prasad, told our Hyderabad correspondent that the turnout was between 75 and 90 percent.

Gurkha Violence Continues; 1 Killed, 6 Arrested

BK131259 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] More reports of violence have come in from Darjeeling hill areas as the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] sponsored bundh [strike] entered the 33d day today. The GNLF activists burned down the house of a CPI-M leader, Mr Ratanlal Brahmin, at Singamadi near Darjeeling last night. One GNLF activist was killed in an encounter with police in Kurseong subdivision this morning. Police arrested six GNLF activists during raids. According to the district magistrate, the GNLF militants also threw bombs in Kalimpong.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

1st Sermon on Arrogant Rulers

LD112010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1523 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, at Tehran University on 11 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the discussion about social justice and in the section about arrogance and oppression we touched on the issue of the special distinguishing features of aristocratic rulers. We have devoted several sermons to the explanation of the spirit of aristrocratic rulers. The conclusion of those sermons was this: Due to their wrong perception of themselves, of humanity, and of society, aristocrats develop misguided expectations. They become conceited and arrogant. In my last sermon I said they even think that because of the capabilities that they claim they have, they have a right to the divine mission, that no one from the deprived or middle classes of the society has this right, and that the right to rule and of velayat-e faqih [rule of the vice-regency] is theirs. They are not prepared to give this right to nonaristocratic classes.

Therefore, based on their beliefs—and bearing in mind the material resources they have at their disposal—the circumstances of history dictated that these people become rulers. Unfortunately, in those places where nonaristocratic people attain power, gradually the habit of ruling and domination makes arrogant those very people who were oppressed or who were not arrogant. The danger always exists that arrogant rulers—considering their mind set that they have a natural right to rule—will be unjust in the exercise of power. People who willingly or by force become subject to their rule are put into an unfortunate situation.

This situation applies to the greater part of history. Today, also, the world suffers from such a situation. The future will be like this as well, unless it becomes possible—on the basis of heavenly teachings and human nature, in which God has implanted justice and right—to create a society in which the rulers, the strong, and the powerful are not arrogant and who really consider themselves to be servants of the people, treat the people as their benefactors, and never let power go to their heads. If such a day ever comes, and if society's rulers achieve such a state, then one can say that society is on the right path.

Today, because of the many issues that I will raise in my second sermon, I will keep the first sermon short. I will refer to the circumstaces of people who come under the domination of aristocratic and arrogant rulers. The Koran is the focal point of our discussion. In this section of which I speak (?one must rely) in great part on Koranic verses, and by referring to it because you cannot go through all the verses in sermons. The subject is very rich from the point of view of Koranic teaching.

The Koran has many verses in many sections about people under the domination of aristocratic rulers. It considers them to be the most deprived—the most unfortunate and, ultimately, deprived—of all beings in this world and the next, that is, those who surrender to the rule of domineering rulers and aristocrats. There are some people who do not surrender. They are forcibly placed under domination, they oppose everything and are unwilling to be one of the crowd, unwilling to obey, unwilling to become the tools of the rulers' affairs and their sinister aims. These people attain high rank because they have the rank of Mojaheds [fighters] against the cruel. However, there are people who become the instruments of the sinister aims of the arrogant rulers. These are the ones who are deprived of everything in this world and the next. Regarding these people, the Koran has referred both to their fate in the next world and their situation in this world. [passage omitted] Those who obey these arrogant and cruel rulers have a previous character flaw in their own nature. First, they lose their humanity, their independence, their human and cogent character. Then they become instruments of the oppressor. [passage omitted]

Because of their expectations, when oppressors come to power they trample on the rights of the people they rule. In addition to that, they corrupt and ruin the oppressed, dehumanize them, and destroy the future of mankind.

The present world situation is a good example of what we are saying, that is, the way the Eastern and Western oppressor powers treat the people they rule. In Western countries, because of the existing system where they need the people because they could not continue to rule if they did not get the people's votes, they have to allow certain considerations. Their hands are tied, so they transfer their misrule to other countries. [passage omitted]

Wherever in the world they find something good, with military, economic, cultural, historical value, they go there and take over. You can see what they are doing to the Lebanese people, to the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

The oppressor powers act solely in their own interests and the interests of the people have no value for them aside from their weak point, when they need votes. You can find examples of this all over the world. [passage omitted]

2d Sermon on Missile Attacks

LD112132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1543 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, at Tehran University on 11 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of my second sermon, I invite the dear brothers and sisters to embrace divine virtue and observe the duties which the sacred faith of Islam has decreed for us, both those of commitment, and those of abstention. [passage omitted]

As for the problems of the day, the most important issue for us now is the issue of the war and also the present situation—the war of the cities. What is happening to our country is very evident to the people. I will devote most of my time to these issues.

What we now see—crimes being committed against civilians, women, and children; against hospitals and schools by the Baghdad 'Aflaqi regime, crimes which unfortunately force us to retaliate in kind—is one of the most graphic scenes underscoring the encounter between infidelity and Islam. This can be seen as the most pronounced manifestation of world infidelity's anger against Islam.

I am talking to the whole Islamic world from this platform. The essence of the problem—the encounter between Islamic revolution of Iran and its enemies—is precisely here. They are not angry at us because we are Iranians, for there are other Iranians who serve them in other places. If they focus their anger on us at a specific geographic point, it is because Islam has taken that area from them. They are not angry at Iran; they want Iran to be at the service of their colonialistic avarice as she was in the past. [passage omitted]

If they show anger at our nation, it is because they are seeking the original motivation of our revolution, that which makes this nation resistant and untiring. It is clear to them that there is nothing but Islam and the Koran. Therefore, today all the hatred and anger are directed against Islam, and they see that Islam has crystallized here. And so they fight against our nation. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the most important problem of the world at present—the problem of the East, the West, reaction, Zionism, and arrogance—is the Islamic movement. It threatens them; they all fear Islam. The Russians were dealt a blow by Islam in Afghanistan; it was Islamic morale which brought the Russians to their knees. Now, inside their own country, the Russian are frightened of the latent feelings in the hearts of the Muslims, who are numerous in the south of their country. They are also having the same problem with Muslims elsewhere.

The Americans feel that the greatness and value of Iran—this country which has economic and strategic value—has been lost to them, so they hold Islam responsible and are angry. If they knew that the issue would end here, they would have agreed to some accommodation. However, they are worried lest this Islamic movement extend to 1 billion Muslims. They show their anxiety. In their conferences, gatherings, and research they have involuntarily said so. They have said that the Iranian fundamentalist Islam has extended to the Pacific shores and to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. They have said that they need to be on a stand-by situation in Islamic countries.

At first, Zionism was afraid of this gradually increasing activity. Zionism did not believe the call of Islam would motivate the people quite like this inside the occupied lands. It sees how martyrdom-seeking and resisting Muslim Lebanese are dealing it blows next door and propagating Islamic ideology in other Arab countries.

Regional reaction—the protector and servant of the interests of imperialism, but which also has a stake in athe outcome—is witnessing the presence of Islam near to and inside its own house. They are all worried about Islam and consider the Islamic revolution responsible. The policy they have adopted is to crush us. According to their calculations, if the Islamic revolution is crushed, others will be halted. [passage omitted]

It is not without reason that they have all united. One can see how the East, the West, reaction, and Zionism, using their internal and external agents, audaciously trampled on all their self-proclaimed standards and values by which they live and rule in the world, so that they can threaten this nation. What we find very interesting and what amazes the world is that the more pressure that is brought to bear on this nation, the more it resists; the more it feels threatened, the more adamant it is in pursing its course. [chants] [passage omitted]

The last stage they set for us was in the Persian Gulf. One should really take note of the activities of the past 5 or 6 months. One of our brothers, an ambassador from a Western diplomatic organization, who was here said that those who are in the know believe that Iran is a unique and heroic nation. There is so much bullying, threats, and deployment of forces in the Persian Gulf. They also dealt us blows; it was not just threats. The United States attacked our oil centers, ships, boats; they also gave Saddam a free hand to bring us to our knees in the Persian Gulf. Seven or 8 months have passed since the start of this incident. What is the judgment of the world now? The people, the diplomats, and those who analyze the news all believe that this incident destroyed the U.S. reputation in the region and the world. [chants]

After they suffered a disgraceful defeat in the Persian Gulf, they made another plan, that is, the present one, which I am going to talk about now. For a long time, they were threatening us with long-range missiles, that they might give to Iraq. Of course, there are some problems that prevented them from having a free hand in this. What they fear is that a missile they may give to Iraq today might fall into the hands of the Iraqi people tomorrow and be used against places like Israel and those Arab countries like Israel. The experience of Iran has made this threat serious. When they were giving these facilities to the previous regime in Iran, they considered this a safe island. They never thought that these facilities would one day fall into the hands of Hezbollahi forces to be used against them. If the United States had thought that the Harpoons, the Phoenix missiles, the F-14's, and other weapons it gave Iran would one day face its own aircraft in the Persian Gulf, it would never have given them to the shah's regime.

They are worried about giving Iraq things which they might lose control of in the future. So what happened is that despite this anxiety, they still gave missiles to Iraq. The reason is that they have somewhat solved the problems among themselves; but the threat of Islam is so great that they are prepared to accept the lesser, possible danger. They first belittled Saddam, then they ensnared him. They took control of the Ba'th Party. They tested them. They saw that Saddam stood with Israel on the Palestinian issue. They saw that the Iraqis were not prepared to side with the Palestinians. They received a clear admission that Iraq saw Islam as the principal threat. When they had brought them to this point, they gave them something—that is the missiles with which they had been threatening us for years—but ever so cautiously.

We see the hands of the East, West, reaction, and Zionism here, in this abortive move, which I will describe to a certain degree. If they wished to give Iraq missiles which could hit Tehran automatically, and without manual control, they could have done so. That same caution which I referred to before prevents them. They do not know that tomorrow those missiles will not fall in the hands of the Iraqi nation, who are of one voice with the Iranian people. Then what could they do?

They came to the Persian Gulf, but to no avail. The Security Council could achieve nothing. All the threats hit a stone wall and bounced back at them. What could they give Iraq to scare Tehran and the Iranian nation, which would not be dangerous later? So, they said, we

will give Iraq something that Iran already possesses, so that it will not create a new threat; and if the Iraqi nation is freed one day, it will have nothing that Iran does not previously possess.

So they came and manipulated Iraq to serve their purpose. I will explain briefly; there are some peripheral points which I will mention now. The missile units of the Guards Corps and the Air Force have inspected unexploded missiles which they have found intact. This is the conclusion they have drawn: We are fully familiar with Scud-B missiles. There is nothing about them that we do not know. They have a total weight of about 5,600 kg, more than 4 tons of which is fuel—either oxidizers, or fuel or (?corrosive) fuel—in three compartments. It has three tanks. The largest is for the oxidizer, the second is the fuel—that is, what is burned in the tank to take it from Baghdad to here, or from here to Baghdad—and then there is the warhead, which is normally about 800 kg. The rest is casing, air capsules, and so forth. For the missile to have a longer range, its fuel should be increased. For example, if it normally has enough fuel for 5 or 6 minutes, they should raise it to 8 or 9 minutes. The longer it travels, the faster it goes, so the less fuel it would need. [sentence as heard]

According to their calculations, they had to add 1,000 kg of fuel. There was no room in the compartments for that, so they took another missile apart and welded its tank to the other's tank. The Israelis believe that they have added a new rocket. No; there were no rockets. We have found them intact and analyzed them. They have cut the tanks—both for the oxidizer and the fuel—adding 85 cm to the oxidizer and 45 cm to the fuel tank. The tank has been lengthened by 130 cm. One of the amateurish things they have done is that the welding causes problems in the missiles' flight path, because the welds are inaccurate. The fuel they have added is abot 1,040 kg; so they have increased the weight of the missile. To reduce weight, they have reduced the warhead by 610 kg.

We have the warhead intact. The warhead casing shows that explosives have been stuck to the casing, which has not been fully removed. We have the warhead intact; it is perfectly clear that this amount has been removed, since there was so much empty space. They took five of the six air capsules from the tail and placed them in the nose to maintain the center of gravity. When the missile is traveling above the atmosphere, it might do somersaults. If it is out of balance, it might change course.

Because of all that they have done, the Scud-B missile—because they did not want a new weapon to fall into the hands of the Iraqi nation—has been turned into a missile with a longer range, because of the extra fuel, but with less explosive power. Of course, it has a number of problems, which we do not want to explain so that the enemy will not hear it.

More than anybody else, the people of Tehran know about the shortcomings of these missiles. We will not talk about that now. This is one of the reasons for the Iraqis' sudden stop. At a great deal of expense, they made two missiles out of three. Our nation is witnessing the effects of the missiles in Tehran. I wish we were in Baghdad and could see what our missiles are doing to Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Who modified these missiles in such a fashion? Have the Russians themselves done it? Have the Americans, the French, the Egyptians done so? The Egyptians have long possessed such missiles. Or have the Israelis done so? We have some intelligence which we do not intend to divulge here.

However, there is a piece of news which I can relate: It is about a row which took place between the Russian leaders and the Iraqi Ba'th Party. At one session, the Russians were protesting to the Iraqis, accusing them of having allowed Russia's rivals to inspect their missiles and of having given secrets about the Russian missiles to their rivals. And the Iraqis pledged not to let the missile secrets fall into the hands of the rivals of Russia—that was after this session.

Now, has the Russian decision been changed? Have Russian experts gone to Iraq? Or maybe experts from countries trusted by the USSR—the East European countries? Or maybe Western experts have done it, coming from afar and without being allowed to learn the secrets of the missiles? Or maybe these secrets have been compromised?

These are issues which will be revealed and discovered later. What is certain is the fact that the claim that the Iraqi themselves have modified the missiles cannot be true, because of what I explained to you.

Now, why did they invest so much effort and money to enable the missiles to hit Tehran? Here, of course, we cannot acquit the Russians. For, in any case, the Iraqis received their missiles from the Russians, though Iraq has had these missiles a long time. The first missiles which the Iraqis fired at Iran were shorter-range FROG types; and later they fired these types. Examining engines which fell into our hands intact, we saw that some of them were made in 1985 and others in 1986. That is, these missiles are not very old; these missiles given to them are new. It is not acceptable to our nation for our neighbors, who would like to have good relations with us and hope, like us, for friendship in the future, to have given missiles in recent years to Iraq in such large numbers. Of course, the issue—the allegations to the effect that these missiles were SS-12 missiles given recently—is now clear to us. No; this is not so. But it is a Russian missile on which experts—and enemies of Islam—have worked, to enable it to have a range long enough to reach Tehran.

Now, what is their objective in hitting Tehran? They used to think, in a similar way as before when they tried to hit Tehran, that Tehran was a place whose people are pleasure-seekers. In their incorrect assessments and through the intelligence they receive from the counter-revolution, they think they know Tehran well. So they thought that Tehran's people are distant from war, and that if the people of Tehran were brought under pressure, their support of the war would weaken. This is a great mistake which the world makes about Tehran. They think the Tehranis are the same as those whom they meet abroad, like the escapees who have left Iran to live with foreigners, or like pleasure-seeking travelers. They think such individuals are representative of Tehranis. They do not know—perhaps they know, but ignore it—that Tehran is the same city which overthrew the defunct ancient regime of Taghout [reference to the shah] through their several-million-strong demonstrations. [crowd chants slogans]

Even in the time of shah, when Tehran was more prosperous than other places, the Tehranis used to parade as they were being riddled with bullets. They used to tear down the statues of the shah and replace them with pictures of the imam on the top of the tallest buildings of Tehran. [passage omitted] Tehran is a hero; Tehranis are well-informed, intelligent, resisting, and militant.

During the Jerusalem Day anniversary 2 or 3 years ago, when the Iraqi aircraft were flying over Tehran, these people performed the greatest epic in history as bombs were exploding and planes were flying. This very week, right now, when there is the danger of missiles hitting Tehran, one must say that our Friday prayers ceremony is quite a sight. People dressed in shrouds can now be seen all over the scene. They have illuminated and clarified these scenes. And today there are more people attending Friday prayers because it is now that they must show how they court danger. These are the people of Tehran; they are no different from the people of other cities. [passage omitted]

In fact, several days from now the world will admit—not now, because now the world is in crisis—that this latest crime of Iraq is another mistake, like previous crimes. It has driven Saddam one more step nearer to death, and has carried the Islamic Republic one more step nearer to victory. [passage omitted]

We will respond to these missiles to the extent that it may deter Iraq. However, our principal response will be given on the battlefields. God willing, we will take our revenge on the Ba'thists inside Iraqi territory and at the frontiers. [shouts of support]

The world must... [changes thought] for the kind of blatant and audacious support it gives the Iraqi Ba'th Party. It is really astonishing that the world is investing so much in this criminal element, an element that treats its own nation like this, as well as the other peoples. Perhaps the reason for such support is that they can no longer find a person as savage as he is; they can no longer find anyone like him to suppress the nations of the region.

The support which the Soviet Union gave to the Marxists ruling Afghanistan was because criminals could not be found who are ready to massacre their nation the way they did. The support given to the Ba'th Party may be for this reason—people who drop chemical bombs on their own people and who try to drive the people out with choking gas. They cannot find a savage like him ready to fight Islam and against those who confront him on Islamic principles. [passage omitted]

Now here I warn those half-dead beings on the south coast of the Gulf who start showing some movement as soon as they hear something, just like hybernating snakes in the winter. Now that they see that Iraq has long-range missiles they raise their voices. The Hijaz regime [Saudis] have said that they would not allow such-and-such to happen during the pilgrimage. They must not be deceived by such things. We will eventually drag Saddam to the gallows to punish him. [shouts of approval] Before they go too far, they are advised not to mix their positions and problems with those of Iraq.

I will now say several sentences in Arabic for our Arab brothers and sisters about the Palestine problems—Palestinians who have asked the world of Islam to to hold demonstrations next Tuesday for the sake of the Palestinians and to support them. God willing, in Iran also, we will continue to support them just as in the early days; this support will continue until the end. [passage omitted]

Tehran, Qom Hit by Iraqi Missiles

LD111759 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Prior to this evening's announcement on halting attacks against residential quarters, the Iraqi regime continued its criminal actions and made targets of Tehran and Qom for its missile attacks which resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a number of our countrymen and damage to a number of houses.

Iraqi Aircraft Violates Airspace Over Ilam

LD120844 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Ilam, March 12, IRNA—An intruding Iraqi war plane violated air space of several cities in western Province of Ilam at 11:25 hours local time (08:55 GMT) Saturday breaking the sound barrier. The invading plane flying on high altitude was intercepted by the heavy fire of the Iranian anti-aircraft units.

Iraqi Aircraft Hit Towns With Chemical Bombs

LD120941 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Iraqi planes dropped chemical bombs on the village of Garmab, Bakhataran Province, western Iran, at 16:30 hours local time (13:00 GMT) Friday. Five villagers are reported to have been wounded in this brutal Iraqi raid.

IRGC Navy Attacks Al-'Amayah Oil Jetty

LD121053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the IRGC has announced that the brave men of the Amir-al Momenin Brigade, the third zone of the Navy of the IRGC, last night attacked the Al-'Amayah jetty using several of their gunboats. After inflicting heavy blows and damage they all returned safely to their bases.

According to this announcement, in these operations the brave fighters of the IRGC Navy set on fire and destroyed part of the enemy establishments and equipment stationed on the Al-'Amayah jetty. These included various kinds of radar, ground-to-air and coast-to-sea missile sites, as well as a number of individual trenches of the Iraqi mercenaries.

Kurdish Forces Ambush Iraqi Forces in Dahuk

LD121130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] During an ambush operation in Dahuk Province, the forces of the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] killed, wounded, and captured a number of Saddamists. According to Ramadan HQ, the IRGC's headquarters for unconventional warfare, the KDP forces of Iraq, in am ambush operation in the regions of (Zafor), Dahuk, Al-'Amadiyah, and Sarsang in Dahuk Province, killed or wounded 35 Iraqi merceneries and captured some of them. In these operations, a military vehicle and two enemy armored vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed, and a number of light arms and ammunition were also seized intact by KDP forces.

Based on this same report, during the last few days, 27 of the Muhammed Talhah and Qazim 'Umar Khan forces surrendered to KDP forces with all their equipment and personal weapons.

Iraqi Plane Unloads Bombs Over Desert

LD130526 Tehran IRNA in English 0525 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Iraqi war planes violated air space of Gachsaran, Khuzestan Province, Saturday afternoon dropping bombs on desert outside the city after being intercepted. The intruding planes were on a mission to strike an industrial labour quarter of the city but were repelled by heavy anti-aircraft fire of Muslim combatants.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said that the latest Iraqi attack showed that the Baghdad regime intends to continue its mischiefs.

He stressed that the Muslim combatants cannot remain indifferent towards such attacks and warned the Iraqi regime to refrain from raiding non-military areas and learn from bitter experiences of the past.

'Zafar-7' Operations Begun in Northeast Iraq

LD131338 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants launched new operations codenamed "Zafar-7" against Iraqi troops in northeastern Iraq early Sunday in retaliation for the recent enemy missile and air attacks on Iranian cities. Iraqi troops have so far suffered substantial casualties and losses in the Iranian operations.

6 Villages 'Liberated'

LD131541 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Scores of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and many others captured in the "Zafar-7" operations launched by Iran's Muslim forces in league with Iraqi mujahidin and Kurdish peshmergas deep inside northeastern Iraq early Sunday.

Heights 1915, 1279, 1295 and 1800 as well as Karchal, Yal Karchal, Chenareh, Harmileh, Khurnavazan, Gardeh, Karehchal and Tapeh Sharam Heights were liberated in the operations code-named "Ya Mohammad Rasullalah" (SAW).

The operations was launched by IRGC personnel of Zafar Brigade 75, Iraqi mujahidin of Badr Division 9, peshmergas of Islamic Movement of Kurdistan, Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), and Al-Sulaymaniyah-based peshmergas.

The attacking forces also liberated six villages in the operational theater. Some 100 Iraqi POWS have so far been transferred behind the battlefield.

The "Zafar-7" operations was launched in retaliation for the Iraqi regime's chemical bombing of Kurdish-populated areas in northern Iraq as a result of which a large number of Kurds have become homeless.

100 Iraqis Killed

LD131606 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1510 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to the reports from the General Staff of the IRGC, the forces engaged in the "Zafar-7" operations, composed of the fighters of 9th Badr Division under the command of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution, the forces of the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Kurdish Democratic Party, and the fighting Kurdish peshmarga from the Al-Sulaymaniyah branch, with the support of some units from the 75th Zafar Brigade of the IRGC Ground Forces, succeeded in crossing several obstacles and difficult ranges to the east of the town of Khurmal. They ambushed the weak enemy and and inflicted crushing blows on them.

According to the reports which have been received, in the course of the liberation of Heights 1,915, 1,279, 1,295, and 1,800 in the east of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, more than 100 enemy forces were killed or wounded and 32 of the Ba'thist mercenaries were captured.

100 Iraqi Casualties

LD131611 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1523 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In continuation of advances made by the operational units of "Zafar-7" operations toward predetermined targets, three more Iraqi villages along the border and near the city of Khurmal were liberated. In the course of liberating the above areas, Muslim brothers and the Kurdish Iraqi strugglers succeeded in killing or injuring more than 100 of the enemy mercenaries and capturing 45.

Further on 'Zafar-7'

LD131621 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1528 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to the IRGC General Staff, with the liberation of four other villages in the Khurmal District by the Muslim fighters and the Iraqi Kurdish strugglers, the total area liberated in the course of "Zafar-7" operations has exceeded 20 sq kms. In the course of the liberation of those villages, the enemy's 432d Brigade, which was incapable of confronting the fighters of Islam, was destroyed more than 50 percent, and 30 or more of its personnel were captured. Therefore, so far more than 100 Iraqis have been captured in the course of these operations.

According to the latest reports received from the operational zone, in the course of the successful "Zafar-7" operations, 15 tanks and more than 20 of the vehicles of the war-mongering Iraqi regime were destroyed, and 10 tanks, 23 vehicles, and a considerable quantity of the enemy's light and semi-heavy equipment were captured intact by the blasphemy-crushing forces of Islam. These glorious, epic deeds were not the start of our divine victory, nor will they be the last. [sentence as heard]

O Takritis [reference to Saddam Husayn]! Only bullets will settle the score between us and in this unequal battle the roaring of the machine-guns based on our faith will be the final arbiter. Glory is yours, O soldiers of the army of monotheism.

450 Iraqi Soldiers Killed

LD131708 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Over 450 Iraqi troops were killed and wounded and at least 100 others were captured by the Muslim forces in "Zafar-7" operations launched inside northeastern Iraq early Sunday, according to reports reaching here from General Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Independent Battalion 24 of the Iraqi army was routed by 90 percent while enemy Brigades 424 and 432, each suffered 50 percent casualties, added the headquarters.

The "Zafar-7" was launched deep inside northeastern Iraq early today by IRGC personnel of Zafar Brigade 75 in league with Iraqi mujahidin and Kurdish pershmergas. Over 40 sq kms of south-eastern Al-Sulaymaniyah Province were liberated in the operations.

370 Iraqis Killed

LD131739 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The IRGC General Staff announced: Simultaneously with the victorious battles of the Muslim fighters and Iraqi Kurdish strugglers in the "Zafar-7" operations, the heroic fighters of the IRGC Ground Forces carried out two patrol-combat operations in the general area of the Darband Heights in Iraq. They succeeded in setting fire to and destroying a large part of the Zionist Iraqi regime's equipment and weapons located there.

These patrol-combat operations, supported with artillery fire, also resulted in the killing or wounding of more than 370 Iraqi personnel. Some 14 enemy personnel, including a number of Iraqi officers and NCO's, were captured and transferred behind the lines. After these operations, all the fighters of Islam safely returned to their bases.

Iraqi Military Column Attacked

LD131748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] As a result of the heavy and effective artillery fire of the IRGC Ground Forces on a military column of the Zionist Iraqi regime consisting of one brigade on the Sayyid Sadiq-Khurmal road, three Iraqi tanks and four vehicles were set on fire and dozens of Iraqi personnel were killed. In addition, other enemy equipment and weapons were damaged and dozens of other Iraqi mercenaries were wounded.

Iraqi Forces 'Destroyed'

LD131607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1518 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to reports from operation "Zafar-7" theater, in the process of liberating nine other heights between the border and the town of Khurmal in Iraq, the Islamic forces destroyed 90 percent of the 24th Independent Battalion and 50 percent of 424th Brigade of the enemy. Furthermore, more than 150 other enemy troops were killed, and a number of others were captured.

With the liberation of these heights, including the Harmaleh Heights and the heights overlooking the villages of (Heniqul) and Dalamar, more than 25 sq km of land in eastern Al-Sulaymaniyah Province were liberated and came under the full control of the operating forces.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique

LD131838 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—At least 450 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and over 100 others captured in the "Zafar-7" operations launched by Iranian and Iraqi Muslim forces in Khurmal region, northeastern Iraq early Sunday, said a military communique here today.

The communique released by Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters said that 14 strategic heights in the operational theater including Heights 1915, 1279, 1295 and 1800 as well as seven border villages near Khurmal were liberated.

The "Zafar-7" operations was launched in retaliation for last week's Iraqi chemical bombing of over 15 Kurdish-populated villages in northern Iraq including Sangar, Molasafi [placename as received] and Kabutu [placename as received], as a result of which 8,000 Kurds became homeless.

The attacking forces included Zafar Brigade 75 of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Badr Division 9 of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), peshmergas of the Kurdistan Islamic Movement, Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), and Al-Sulaymaniyah-based peshmergas.

Iraqi Battalion 24 of Brigade 424 and Brigade 432 were destroyed between 50 to 90 percent in the operations, code-named "Ya Mohammad Rasullalah" (SAW).

Over 20 Iraqi vehicles, 15 tanks and scores of light and heavy mortar launchers were set ablaze and hundreds of launchers, 23 vehicles, 10 tanks and a large number of mortar launchers were seized intact by the combined Muslim forces during the operations.

Some 40 kms of Iraqi territory in eastern Al-Sulaymaniyah Province was also liberated, concluded Khatem ol-Anbiya', the joint IRGC-Army Headquarters.

150 Killed in 'Zafar-7'

LD140917 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0858 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to reports from IRGC Central Headquarters, simultaneous with the first phase of the victorious operation "Bayt al-Moqaddas-3," Muslim, Iraqi Kurdish mujahidin, and commandos of the 75th Zafar Brigade of IRGC Ground Forces, in the course of Operation "Zafar-7," staged (?phase two), in the general area around Khurmal, killing more than 150 Ba'thist Iraqi troops and (?injuring) dozens of others. (?With God's help victory is nigh.)

Missile Attacks on Cities Resumes; Iraq Blamed

Baghdad Warned To Evacuate

LD131912 Tehran IRNA in English 1909 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Iran warned Baghdad residents to evacuate areas close to military and economic centers in the Iraqi capital in order to be immune of Iran's retaliatory attacks. The warning came following a renewed missile attack on Tehran by the Baghdad regime this evening.

"Iran's Muslim combatants will severely retaliate Sunday night's Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran," vowed a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here.

The WIH spokesman quoted an Iraqi military statement as warning that it will resume its missile attacks on Tehran in retaliation for alleged Iranian shelling of Darband Heights and Halabjah.

He categorically refuted the Iraqi claim as "pure fabrication" and said that Iranian combatants have stormed Iraqi positions on the battlefields during the "Zafar-7" operations, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

Tonight's Iraqi missile attack on Tehran betrays the Iraqi regime's intention to resume attacks on Iran's civilian quarters, the spokesman said.

He said the Muslim forces of Iran are quite prepared to give crushing response to the latest Iraqi missile attack.

The spokesman said that the Baghdad regime by renewing it attacks on residential areas in Tehran once again revealed its aggressive nature.

He called on international organizations to condemn the Iraq regime for its repeated violation of international norms and for attacks on civilians, and also to prevent the Ba'thist regime from continuing its inhuman acts.

'Several' Casualties in Tehran

LD132019 Tehran IRNA in English 2017 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—SeveraL Iranian civilians were martyred and wounded in a renewed Iraqi missile attack on residential areas in Tehran Sunday night.

The attack followed the severe defeat suffered by Iraq's Ba'thist army in the "Zafar-7" operations launched by Iranian combatants in league with Iraqi mujahidin and Kurdish peshmergas in Khurmal region, northeastern Iraq, early Sunday.

WIH Head Condemns Attacks

LD132209 Tehran IRNA in English 2206 GMT 13 Mar 88

["Baghdad Needs Severe Punishment—Kharrazi—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr. Kamal Kharrazi said here Sunday that Sunday night's Iraqi missile attack on Tehran indicates that Iraq's Ba'thist regime needs a severe and serious punishment.

The Baghdad regime has resumed attacks on Iran's residential areas, hoping in vain to shake the firm determination of the Iranian people and discourage them from continuing their sacred defence, by waging a psychological warfare, he said.

The WIH head reiterated that the Islamic Republic has always been against attacking civilians and on the basis of this belief it has never initiated such attacks and will never do so in future. But, Kharrazi noted, the Islamic Republic reserves the right of retaliation.

Iran has to get involved in the so-called war of the cities initiated by the Iraqi regime in an effort to end it as soon as possible, he said.

Kharrazi added that the objective behind the resumption of Iraqi attacks on Iran's cities is to realize its sinister scheme for pushing the Iranian Muslim nation into a compromise.

As Iran's Muslim nation has proved in the previous stages of Iraqi attacks on cities, it will never compromise even under the most difficult conditions or pressure of missile and air attacks, nor will it back down from its principles, he stressed.

The WIH head said if the Iraqi regime had been wise it would have realized that it would never gain anything from the war of cities.

This time too, Kharrazi said, it was the Iraqi regime which initiated attacking civilian quarters. He also called on international bodies to take serious measures to force Baghdad to discontinue its attacks on residential areas.

Iraqi rulers imagine that by perpetrating such criminal acts they could adversely affect the Iranian people's firm determination, Kharrazi said.

During the two-day lull of Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities, Western military experts admitted that no one can force a people to surrender by attacking their houses, he said.

Renewed Iraqi attacks on Iran's cities have only served to strengthen the unity of the Iranian people and make them more determined to continue their defence, Kharrazi said.

The "Fascist regime" of Iraq by taking advantage of Iran's mercy and passion for the Iraqi people and its unwillingness to hurt civilians, has impudently renewed its attacks on civilians in Iran, he said.

Tonight's Iraqi missile attack on Tehran proves the fact that the Islamic Republic should be firmer in its determination to punish the Baghdad rulers, Kharrazi concluded.

7 Missiles Fired by Iraq

LD141009 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—The Iraqi regime has fired seven surface-to-surface missiles on residential quarters of Tehran since 21:50 hours local time (18:20 GMT) Sunday, head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi noted here Monday. At least 20 civilians were martyred and 50 others wounded while several housing units were destroyed in this latest Ba'thist crime, he added.

Kharrazi addressing himself to international circles said that they are a witness to the resumption of Iraqi attacks on residential areas and it is Iran's natural right to give a firm reprisal to the enemy mischief.

The Muslim combatants have already started their retaliatory measures by pounding economic and military installations of Iraqi border towns, said the WIH head, stressing that they will start firing missiles until they make the Ba'thist enemy repent.

16 Dead, 27 Wounded in Attacks

LD140352 Tehran IRNA in English 0347 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Civilian areas in Tehran were subjected to long-range Iraqi missile attacks several times last night and early this morning. At least 16 people, including a number of women and children were martyred and 27 others wounded. A number of houses were also destroyed and damaged.

Attacks on Tehran Resume

NC140540 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] The criminal, fire-fanning rulers of Baghdad resumed attacks on our country's residential areas and attacked some areas of Tehran with their missiles this morning as well. According to the Central News Unit, in these attacks, which commenced at 2150 [1820 GMT] last night, 16 of our compatriots were martyred and 27 injured. Some houses were destroyed or damaged.

2 Missiles Fired at Baghdad

LD140956 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Two Iranian surface-to-surface missiles were launched at some military and economic centers in Baghdad at 12:20 and 12:25 hours local time (08:50 and 08:55 GMT) Monday to avenge the recent Iraqi missile attacks on residential areas of the capital.

The War Information Headquarters (WIH) announcing the boave in its statement released here today said that renewed missile attacks on Tehran indicate that the criminal regime of Baghdad sees its survival in the continuation of its aggression and massacre of Iranian civilians.

The Ba'thist rulers of Baghdad, who cold-bloodedly massacred a group of Tehran residents over last night and today morning are now scheming to continue their crimes, it said.

The WIH statement declared that Iran's Muslim combatants are determined to pound all military, industrial and economic centers in Iraq with surface-to-surface missiles, jet fighters and long-range artillery until these are wiped out.

Iranian combatants will not rest until they have avenged the blood of the martyrs of Iraqi missile and air attacks, it vowed.

As an indication of the start of Iran's retaliatory measures aimed at destroying the dens of corruption in Baghdad, the Muslim forces of Iran fired two surface-to-surface missiles at the Iraqi capital today. The statement warned Iraqi rulers that Iran's reprisal operations will continue powerfully.

Joint Staff on Safety Measures

LD141126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has issued a statement bringing to public attention steps to be taken during enemy missile attacks. The statement says: Considering the enemy's savage air and missile attacks on our country's residential areas, including Tehran, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran again calls on our dear compatriots to observe closely safety and nonactive defensive measures which have previously been brought to public attention through the mass media. The statement points out: During a red alert there is also the possibility of a missile attack.

Velayati Cables Perez de Cuellar

LD140420 Tehran IRNA in English 0415 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati cabled a message to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, warning international bodies against the grave consequences of Sunday night's Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran.

The message said the Islamic Republic has always refrained from attacking civilian areas or spreading the war beyond the war fronts in compliance with international regulations. But, he warned that last night's missile attacks on Tehran by the Baghdad regime under lame and false pretexts have left the Islamic Republic no option but to retaliate these criminal enemy acts as a deterrent measure.

Elsewhere in the message, Velayati said that reprisal for such war crimes and continuation of Iran's legitimate defence against the aggressor are among the just rights of the Islamic Republic.

Iran will never hesitate to use its definite rights as long as international bodies fail to take an effective measure to force Baghdad to discontinue its savage crimes, Velayati said, warning that the Iraqi regime and its supporters are responsible for the grave consequences of such attacks.

'Bayt al-Moqaddass-3' Operation Launched

LD140835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0819 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, according to the IRGC HQ, the sons of your fighting and patient nation, early today, in conjunction with the anniversary of the martyrdom of the seventh imam, staged the first phase of operation "Bayt al-Moqaddas-3," codenamed "O Musa, Son of Ja'far." The operation is being carried out in the general area of Al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraq. Heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on the feeble enemy.

5 Heights Taken

LD140851 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants launched "Bayt al-Moqaddas-3" operations in Al-Sulaymaniyah region, northeastern Iraq early Monday, to avenge enemy missile attacks on Iran's residential areas, said a military statement here today.

The statement said that Muslim forces despite the bad weather conditions surmounted rugged mountainous paths in the operational theater early Monday, storming enemy positions and inflicting heavy casualties on them.

Heights 1955 and 1473 and Gerdhelkan [placename as received] Range including Heights 1552, 1449 and 1727 were liberated and purged of Ba'thist troops during the operations, code-named "Ya Musa ibn Ja'far" [O Musa, son of Ja'far] (A.S.), after the 7th Imam of the prophet's household, said the statement released by the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

'Highest' Peak Liberated

LD140938 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Muslim combatants liberated the highest and most strategic height of the Gujar range [placename as received] in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, northeastern Iraq Monday.

With the capture of Height 2176 the Muslim combatants are now in full control over the Gujar Mountain Range and are purging the captured positions of enemy troops.

At least 60 Iraqi Ba'thists were captured and scores of others killed or wounded in the "Bayt-al-Moqaddas-3" operations launched in northeastern Iraq early Monday.

Iraqi Aircraft Downed by IRGC

LD140943 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to a report I have just received. An invading Iraqi aircraft was shot down in the "Bayt al-Moqaddas-3" operational zone.

According to reports from the zone, an Iraqi plane which intended to bomb the positions of the forces of Islam this morning, was shot down by heavy fire from the IRGC Ground Forces.

Advance on Al-Sulaymaniyah

LD141005 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0936 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Please listen to the latest communique: Continuing their advance toward their predetermined target areas, the Islamic fighters brought under control three important and strategic heights. The (Gerdehalkan) Heights, which include heights Nos 1727, 1552, and 1449, are summits overlooking the enemy forces and where the Islamic forces have now been stationed. Our troops are consolidating their positions and gaining complete supremacy over the enemy forces. They have forced the remnants of the enemy forces in the region to vacate the area and retreat.

The Islamic army has also succeeded in liberating Gowardah and Sumer villages and have crossed the Kanguru, Kankhan, Gowardah, Kani Da'ud, and Pilakan Rivers to gain complete control in the region. The Islamic forces are within 20 km of Al-Sulaymaniyah, moving in a north-south direction, and are continuing their fierce battles with the crumbling enemy units.

Iraqi Infantry Brigade 'Routed'

LD141039 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 14 Mar 88

[Text] Operational Region, March 14, IRNA—Muslim combatants today routed Infantry Brigade 604 of the First Iraqi Corps killing or wounding 350 more Iraqi troops in the "Bayt al-Moqaddas-3" theatre, northeastern Iraq. The Brigade was rushed to back the battered Ba'thist troops in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province but was smashed in fierce hand-to-hand battle. The Muslim combatants took another 27 captives in the process, bringing to 87 the number of POWS.

Communiques Detail Recent Combat Operations

Communique No 3,138

LD111811 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Iranian fighters heavily bombed military and economic installations of Iraqi cities of Al-'Amarah, Shaykh Langar and Tuz Khurmatu as well as enemy troop-concentration centers in Faqqeh, Zobeydah, and Al-'Amarah at 08:10, 08:25, 08:45, 09:43, 11:50 GMT Friday, and returned safely to their bases, said a communique released here Friday.

The 3138th communique of the Joint Staff Command also said an Iraqi warplane was shot down in Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni.

Iranian Muslim combatants' artillery shelled industrial and economic installations of Iraqi cities of Basra, Khanaqin, Banmil, Mandali, Al-Sulaymaniyah and Qal'at Dizah in retaliation fr Iraqi acts of mischief. Iraqi installations suffered substantial damage in the shellings, it added.

Exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire raged on in the war fronts Thursday as a result of which Iraqi forces suffered considerable casualties and damage, said the communique.

Iraqi patrol groups were subjected to Iranian combatants' fire in Qasr-e Shirin region and were forced to flee suffering casualties, it added.

The communique said Iraqi motorized columns were subjected to heavy artillery fire of Muslim forces sustaining damage and casualties.

Iranian Air Force reconnoitered the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in support of Iranian Navy in its military operations, said the communique.

The communique further said Iranian gunboats intercepted two foreign tankers and a commercial ship in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to proceed since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces inflicted heavy damage and casualties on Iraqi forces in southern fronts Friday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,139

LD121609 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Friday in support of the navy according to international regulations, reported a military communique here Saturday.

The 3139th Joint Staff communique said that exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts yesterday raging somewhat more heavily in Zobeydah, southern sector, where a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements set ablaze.

Heavy fire of the Muslim combatants inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi tank squadrons in Sumar and Yebis, western and southern sectors, yesterday.

Iran's Muslim combatants spotted and shelled a group of Iraqi soldiers east of Al-'Amarah, southeastern Iraq, Friday, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

In Chazabeh and Yebis, southern fronts, Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi engineering units from building roads or setting up mine fields yesterday.

In Maymak, western sector, an Iraqi patrol convoy sustained several casualties and was forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire Friday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,140

LD131614 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants continued their relentless battles with Iraqi troops throughout the war fronts Saturday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 3140th Joint Staff communique reported that two Iranian patrol convoys infiltrated Iraqi positions in a southern war theater at dawn yesterday, dealing heavy blows on enemy troops before returning safely to bases.

On Saturday, Iranian artillery fire routed an Iraqi patrol unit in Sumar, western sector, and inflicted heavy losses on enemy tank squadrons in Panjwin, Kushk and Nahr 'Anbar.

In the western fronts, an Iraqi artillery piece and several logistical trucks were destroyed yesterday when hit by heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants.

Iran's Muslim forces checked Iraqi engineering operations in Qasr-e Shirin, Chazabeh and Nahr 'Anbar Saturday, inflicting heavy losses on several enemy light and heavy vehicles.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian naval gunboats intercepted and inspected a cargo ship yesterday but allowed it to continue voyage after making certain it was not carrying cargo for Iraq.

The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Saturday.

An unidentified helicopter, attempting to approach an Iranian oil platform in the Persian Gulf yesterday, was repelled by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Heavy fire of Iranian anti-aircraft units also repulsed six Iraqi warplanes which attempted to attack a southern Iranian oil field yesterday, concluded the communique.

Musavi Comments on 13 Mar Cabinet Session

LD131126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The last cabinet meeting for the year ending 20 March 88 was held this morning. According to the Central News Unit, the cabinet first discussed and examined recent national and international developments and then stressed the importance of the building more shelters, which will in the future provide the country with a strong fortress.

In this meeting, the authority for employing 4,150 people in the Education Ministry and 1,197 people in other ministries was also approved. This Thursday was declared a holiday for government employees as part of their yearly leave. The cabinet was also informed of the preparedness of guilds and public companies to help with the reconstruction of damaged units.

After the session, the prime minister gave an interview to our reporter. He said the reason behind the cessation of the Iraqi regime's wickedness in attacking residential areas was the presence of the people on the scene and their steadfast spirit. He noted: We will maintain our preparedness; the fighters of Islam are determined to inflict blows on Saddam's regime.

Mr Musavi then referred to the posturing of the world press with respect to the Zionist enemy's attacks against our country's residential areas and added: The mass media have said that the main defeat of the war of the cities for Iraq was the people's steadfastness. He then praised the self-sacrifice and selflessness of the people for the purpose of saving the lives of wounded people.

Musavi Inspects Residential Area Hit by Missile

LD112326 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today inspected a residential quarter hit by Iraqi missile attack earlier in the day.

During the inspection Prime Minister Musavi hailed services of wartime relief workers and disciplinary forces for the quality of their services. The prime minister condemned atrocity against civilians and stressed on humanitarian efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran for curtailing attacks on cities.

UN Envoy, Red Cross Official Discuss War

LD111349 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Iran's representative at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva yesterday evening met with Mr Sommaruga, the president of the International Committee of Red Cross, and submitted the formal reply of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] to the Red Cross request of 3 March about halting attacks on cities. In the course of this meeting, the IRI ambassador pointed out: The Islamic Republic does not believe at all that the war should involve civilians and has never initiated attacks on nonmilitary targets.

However, since the beginning of the war, Iraq has raised the issue of attacking cities and used it as an alternative and part of its general war policy. He also emphasized: In the absence of a serious diplomatic move by international organizations, the IRI has carried out its retaliatory measures in order to halt further Iraqi crimes. This has been merely a deterrent, and as long as Iraq continues to attack our country's cities and residential areas, the IRI is compelled to continue its deterrent measures powerfully. The IRI, with full respect for humane and international regulations—particularly the 1949 Geneva Convention, the safeguarding of which is one of the main responsibilities of the International Committee of the Red Cross—is prepared to halt its retaliatory actions as soon as Iraq stops its attacks.

During the same meeting, Mr Sommaruga said: The International Committee of the Red Cross has been deeply concerned over the consequences of this tragic situation since the war of the cities resumed, and has followed its developments. Referring to the steps taken by the International Committee of the Red Cross in this connection, he reiterated this committee's stand vis-a-vis this blatant violation of basic humane and international regulations. Expressing gratitude for the positive reply of the IRI, he announced that the International Committee of the Red Cross is seriously studying the issue and will continue its independent efforts, with the cooperation of the UN secretary general and by using other possible means, in order to halt attacks on civilians and to secure unconditional implementation of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

Khamene'i Lauds Resistance to Missile Attacks

LD121637 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—The central council of Tehran Guilds presented over 2.052 billion rials (over 30 million dollars) to President 'Ali Khamene'i here today, as donation toward the war efforts.

During the meeting, President Khamene'i said guilds have been struggling along with ulema since the early days of the Islamic revolution. Businessmen are true companions of the revolution and they should continue to serve it, he added.

Elsewhere, the president lauded bravery and resistance of the dauntless Iranian nation in the face of Iraqi missile and air attacks and said the enemy by firing long-range missiles fancied it could pressure the Iranian people. "People's resistance and their scoffing at the wicked motivations of colonialists foiled enemy plots," he added.

The head of the Supreme Defence Council stressed that Iranian retaliatory blows were stronger than those of the enemy, and finally forced it to lose face in the world.

The blind indiscriminate Iraqi attacks on the capital revealed the depth of Saddam's hostility towards Tehranis who have driven the enemy crazy by staging regular massive demonstrations. "Presence of the Iranian people at the Friday prayer over the past two weeks was more enthusiastic than ever despite enemy missile and air attacks." said the president.

Envoy to Moscow Gives Message to Shevardnadze

LD112005 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 11 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Naser Heyrani-Nobari conferred with the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow Friday. In the meeting Heyrani-Nobari conveyed the response of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to a recent message by Shevardnadze.

Commentary on Perez de Cuellar's Peace Plan

LD131353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 13 Mar 88
[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yesterday Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, in a press interview in Vienna, announced the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran on UN Resolution No 598. In the interview he referred to the UN secretary general's plan, saying: To implement Resolution No 598 the peace plan of Javier Peres de Cuellar must be given priority.

Concerning the U.S. and Iraqi positions on the secretary general's plan, he said: The efforts of the UN secretary general have been ignored because of Iraq's refusal to accept them, as well as American lack of interest in Resolution No 598.

The UN secretary general proposed a plan for implementing Resolution No 598 soon after its approval by members of the Security Council. In his plan he said that all the eight articles in Resolution No 598 are of equal importance and that the order according to which the articles have been incorporated does not entail any order of importance. Therefore, he said, according to the secretary general's plan, each single article of the resolution could be implemented as a first step.

Regarding his plan of operation, Perez de Cuellar stated: Prior to any negotiation or decision it is necessary for the aggressor to be named, and the border between Iran and Iraq—which due to Saddam's tearing up of the Algiers agreement is still unknown—to be determined.

Concerning the secretary general's plan, which is acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States and its friends are trying by underhanded means to ensure that the articles of Resolution No 598 are implemented in order, claiming that the order of the articles in fact provides the basis of how to implement the resolution. Iraq and the United States are jointly banking on this. Now those two countries are trying to prevent the secretary general's plan from being discussed; they are doing this through various means.

The fact that the secretary general's plan has been left dormant in the United Nations—which must be assessed in the framework of the U.S. and Iraqi harrassments—is an indication that the U.S. and Iraqi agitation has had a great impact on Security Council members. Otherwise, there is no other logical reason for the plan to remain dormant. After all, the plan came about on the basis of the fixed laws of the UN Charter.

The U.S. and Iraqi actions at the United Nations are designed precisely to prevent the organization from adopting principled positions with regard to the imposed war. The 7 years' experience of the war clearly indicates that the Iraqi regime in practice attaches no value to any international law. That is why it has repeatedly flouted it.

Through its repeated attacks on our country's villages on the border region prior to its massive invasion of the territory of the Islamic Republic, as well as its tearing up the Algerian agreement, the Iraqi regime in fact took the first series of steps against international law. Later, in subsequent phases, through attacks on residential areas, the massive use of chemical weapons, and barbaric attacks on passenger planes and trains, the Iraqi regime show its disregard for international law.

A glance at the black record of the Iraqi regime's violation of international law clarifies the point that the procrastination of the UN organization in recognizing the Iraqi regime as the aggressor will in fact, on the one hand, destroy the credibility of that organization in public opinion and, on the other, will strengthen the belief of the fighters of Islam that the war can only be determined at the battlefront.

Nepal

Inquiry Into National Stadium Stampede Ordered

BK130324 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The Nepalese prime minister has constituted a one-man commission to inquire into yesterday's stampede at the National Stadium in Kathmandu in which 90

persons are reported to have lost their lives. The AIR Kathmandu correspondent Kushil Chubra reports that the government has also announced assistance of 10,000 rupees to the families of each of the deceased and 2,000 rupees to each of the injured.

As already reported, the stampede occurred when a hailstorm hit the stadium causing panic among the spectators, numbering over 25,000, who gathered to watch a football match between Nepalese and Bangladeshi teams. The spectators rushed toward the exit gates but found them closed. Most of the deaths occurred near the gates. The storm, which broke out just before half-time, also uprooted trees and telegraph poles in the valley.

King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya visited the hospitals last night and enquired about the inured being treated there. About 50 persons have been sent home after the rendering of treatment.

Minister Holds News Conference

BK131525 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, March 13 (AFP)—Nepal's Minister of State for Home Affairs Niranjan Thapa said here Sunday that nobody was to blame for a stampede during a football match at the National Stadium which left 70 people dead and 97 injured. Nobody could have prevented Saturday's "unexpected natural calamity," Mr. Thapa told a news conference when asked if he or anybody else should be held responsible for the disaster.

Mr. Thapa denied reports that the police had used lathis (sticks) on the crowd as people rushed for the exits in panic when a violent hailstorm hit the largely uncovered stadium. Upscrupulous elements were trying to exploit the situation for their own purposes, Mr. Thapa said, calling on the press to act with restraint.

Students demonstrated briefly in the centre of the capital Sunday to protest what they described as the irresponsible behaviour of the Nepal Sports Council and the police, witnesses said.

An official statement earlier Sunday put the death toll at 69 while hospital sources said 71 people had died and more deaths were likely. Earlier reports from hospitals had put the number of dead at about 100. Mr. Thapa said 15 people remained in a critical condition, 34 were stable and 48 had been discharged from hospital. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Captured Hijacker Reportedly KHAD Agent

BK131154 Hong Kong AFP in English 1136 GMT 13 Mar 88

[By Masood Shah]

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, March 13 (AFP)—A Pathan gunman captured during an abortive attempt to hijack a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane to Kabul was working for the Afghan secret police, press reports said Sunday. "The attempt to hijack the plane was made at the instigation of the Afghan regime's secret police, KHAD," the Urdu-language JANG daily said.

Abdul Mannan Achkazai, 28, was overpowered Saturday by a security guard and three provincial ministers on board a PIA Airbus-300 flying from this southern city to the Baluchistan capital Quetta, bordering southeast Afghanistan. The police here did not rule out the reports that he might be a KHAD agent, noting that Mr. Mannan was known to have had close links with the Afghan border militia and used to flee into Afghanistan to escape Pakistan security forces. "He will be closely interrogated on these lines so as to establish his identity and motives," a police official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Mr. Mannan was said to belong to the Achkazai tribe, found on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistan border, and whose leader Mehmud Khan Achkazai has been in hiding since October 1983 following accusations of involvement in murder and anti-government activity.

A mujahidin rebel commander, Major General Asmatullah Muslim, who switched sides and now heads an Afghan militia border force is from the same tribe and Mr. Mannan was known to have close links with him, police said. They said they believed the attempted hijacking could have been meant to put pressure on Pakistan to sign an accord at the current United Nations-sponsored peace talks on the Afghan conflict in Geneva.

Mr. Mannan, whom police said was armed with a pistol, the security guard and an airline official suffered gunshot wounds, witnesses said, adding that the hijacker had demanded the plane be flown to the Afghan capital Kabul.

The would-be hijacker was wanted in connection with several cases of murder and smuggling, other press reports in Quetta said. Police here confirmed these reports, saying that Mr. Mannan would be tried not only for Saturday's hijack attempt but also on murder and smuggling charges. Aviation officials said he could face the death penalty for air piracy. He told investigators in Quetta that he had attempted to hijack the plane to secure the release of two friends jailed for smuggling, police said.

A .25 calibre revolver was recovered from Mr. Mannan who told investigators in Quetta that he had hidden the weapon in his running shoes when passing through security at Karachi Airport, according to police. This was his second attempt at hijacking a Pakistani airliner, Mr. Mannan was quoted as saying. When he made his first attempt, on an undisclosed date, he managed to smuggle a pistol on board but the presence of Pakistani commandos in the economy section of the plane had deterred him, police said. But this time he bought a first

class ticket, only to be foiled by the alertness of the security guard. Security forces detained three other passengers in Quetta Saturday for questioning as suspected accomplices.

A senior Pakistan Air Force officer has been appointed to head an investigation into the hijack attempt and security at Karachi Airport. Several security staff there have been suspended from duty, officials said.

In September 1986 five Arab gunmen boarded a Pan Am Boeing 747 at Karachi disguised as airport security guards, observers recalled. Pakistani commandos stormed the plane as the gunmen, currently standing trial in Rawalpindi, opened fire killing 22 passengers.

Junejo Reiterates Stand on Afghanistan

BK131639 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Mar 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has given an assurance that the government will take only such decision on the Afghanistan question which is in the best interest of Pakistan and ensure the return of over 3 million refugees to their country in safety and honor. He was addressing leaders of public opinion and important sections of people from Baluchistan in Quetta today. He said the government has to take a final decision in which the opinion and observations of members of parliament, political leaders, and those with whom he had talked at the provincial capitals would be given full weight.

The prime minister said since the Soviet Union wanted to withdraw its troops from the 15th of May, Pakistan had to formulate its viewpoint without loss of more time. He said Pakistan was in favor of a transitional government in Afghanistan with which all Afghan sections—the mujahidin, the refugees, and those now living in Afghanistan—are associated. This, he thought, would provide for guarantee for safe return of the refugees to their homeland.

The prime minister said a genuinely representative jirgah [assembly] of Afghan people should be convened which should decide the shape of the future set up with mujahidin who have launched jihad [holy war] to free their country, representatives of refugees, and Afghans who taken shelter in other countries fully represented on it.

Earlier, speakers including provincial ministers, senators, members of provincial assembly, and representatives of ulemas [religious scholars]. Lawyers, workers, and councillors assured the prime minister that the nation would fully back whatever decision he took on the issue.

Planning Minister on Soviet Economic Assistance

BK130847 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] The federal minister for planning and development, Dr Mahbubul Haq, has said that 89 percent of the Seventh Plan will be drawn from local resources and only 11 percent will be obtained from external sources. Speaking at a seminar in Lahore today, he said the dependence on foreign loans will be gradually reduced. He said that during the Sixth Five-Year Plan, foreign loans of 120 billion rupees were obtained, whereas during the Seventh Five-Year Plan, this total will be reduced to 96 billion rupees.

The planning minister said under this plan, foreign trade will be increased and loans will be obtained from the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union. He said that at the Soviet Union's request, we have submitted a list of projects to be launched during the Seventh Plan.